



## **ANAPHYLAXIS**

### **(Severe Allergic Reaction)**

It is the policy of The Ranches Academy Public School to provide at least two (2) doses of auto-injectable epinephrine (hereinafter called 'unassigned or stock epinephrine') in each school, to be administered by a school nurse or employee of the school who is authorized and trained in the administration of epinephrine to any student believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction on school premises, during the academic day. The Code of Virginia (§8.01-225) provides civil protection for employees of a school who are appropriately trained to administer epinephrine.

### **Policy Limitations**

Parents of students with known life threatening allergies and/or anaphylaxis should provide the school with written instructions from the students' health care provider for handling anaphylaxis and all necessary medications for implementing the student specific order on an annual basis. This anaphylaxis policy is not intended to replace student specific orders or parent provided individual medications. This policy does not extend to activities off school grounds (including transportation to and from school, field trips, etc.) or outside of the academic day (sporting events, extracurricular activities, etc.).

### **Overview**

Anaphylaxis is a severe systemic allergic reaction from exposure to allergens that is rapid in onset and can cause death. Common allergens include animal dander, fish, latex, milk, shellfish, tree nuts, eggs, insect venom, medications, peanuts, soy, and wheat. A severe allergic reaction usually occurs quickly; death has been reported to occur within minutes. An anaphylactic reaction can occur up to one to two hours after exposure to the allergen.

### **Symptoms of Anaphylaxis**

- Shortness of breath or tightness of chest; difficulty in or absence of breathing
- Sneezing, wheezing or coughing
- Difficulty swallowing
- Swelling of lips, eyes, face, tongue, throat or elsewhere
- Low blood pressure, dizziness and/or fainting
- Heart beat complaints: rapid or decreased
- Blueness around lips, inside lips, eyelids
- Sweating and anxiety
- Itching, with or without hives; raised red rash in any area of the body
- Skin flushing or color becomes pale
- Hoarseness

- Sense of impending disaster or approaching death
- Loss of bowel or bladder control
- Nausea, abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhea
- Burning sensation, especially face or chest
- Loss of consciousness

Although anaphylactic reactions typically result in multiple symptoms, reactions may vary. A single symptom may indicate anaphylaxis. Epinephrine may be administered promptly at the first sign of anaphylaxis. It is safer to administer epinephrine than to delay treatment for anaphylaxis.

## **Training**

Building level administration shall be responsible for identifying at least two employees, in addition to the school nurse (RN or LPN), to be trained in the administration of epinephrine by auto-injector. Only trained personnel should administer epinephrine to a student believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction. Training shall be conducted in accordance with the most current edition of the Virginia Department of Education's Manual for Training Public School Employees in the Administration of Medication. Training shall be conducted annually or more often as needed.

## **Standing Orders**

Standing orders are written to cover multiple people as opposed to individual-specific orders, which are written for one person. The Ranches Academy Public School shall designate an authorized medical provider (MD, DO, PA, or NP with prescriptive authority) to prescribe non-student specific epinephrine for the school division, to be administered to any student believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction on school grounds, during the academic day. Standing orders must be renewed annually and with any change in prescriber.

## **Responding to Anaphylaxis**

If student-specific orders are on file they should be followed for students with known life threatening allergies and/or anaphylaxis. For suspected anaphylaxis without specific orders:

1. Based on symptoms, determine that an anaphylactic reaction is occurring.
2. Act quickly. It is safer to give epinephrine than to delay treatment. This is a life and death decision.
3. Determine the proper dose and administer epinephrine. Note the time.
4. Direct someone to call 911 and request medical assistance. Advise the 911 operator that anaphylaxis is suspected and that epinephrine has been given.
5. Stay with the person until emergency medical services (EMS) arrives.
6. Monitor their airway and breathing.
7. Reassure and calm person as needed.
8. Call School Nurse/Front Office school personnel and advise of situation.
9. Direct someone to call parent/guardian.
10. If symptoms continue and EMS is not on the scene, administer a second dose of epinephrine 5 to 15 minutes after the initial injection. Note the time.
11. Administer CPR if needed.
12. EMS to transport individual to the emergency room. Document individual's name, date, and time the epinephrine was administered on the used epinephrine auto-injector and

- give to EMS to accompany the individual to the emergency room.
13. Even if symptoms subside, 911 must still respond and individual must be evaluated by a physician. A delayed or secondary reaction may occur.
  14. Document the incident and complete the incident report.
  15. Replace epinephrine stock medication as appropriate.

### **Post Event Actions**

- Once epinephrine is administered, local Emergency Medical Services (911) shall be activated and the student transported to the emergency room for follow care. In some reactions, the symptoms go away, only to return one to three hours later. This is called a “biphasic reaction.” Often these second-phase symptoms occur in the respiratory tract and may be more severe than the first phase symptoms. Therefore, follow up care with a health care provider is necessary. The student will not be allowed to remain at school or return to school on the day epinephrine is administered.
- Document the event
- Complete incident report
- Replace epinephrine stock medication immediately

### **Storage, Access and Maintenance**

Epinephrine should be stored in a safe, unlocked and accessible location, in a dark place at room temperature (between 59-86 degrees F). Epinephrine should not be maintained in a locked cabinet or behind locked doors. Staff should be made aware of the storage location in each school. It should be protected from exposure to heat, cold or freezing temperatures. Exposure to sunlight will hasten deterioration of epinephrine more rapidly than exposure to room temperatures. The expiration date of epinephrine solutions should be periodically checked; the drug should be replaced if it is approaching the expiration date. The contents should periodically be inspected through the clear window of the auto-injector. The solution should be clear; if it is discolored or contains solid particles, replace the unit.

Each school should maintain documentation that stock epinephrine has been checked on a monthly basis to ensure proper storage, expiration date, and medication stability.

The school division shall maintain a sufficient number of extra doses of epinephrine for replacement of used or expired school stock on the day it is used or discarded. Expired auto-injectors or those with discolored solution or solid particles should not be used. Discard them in a sharps container.