

Regulation

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: Policies JECA and JEC

Responsible Office: ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

STUDENTS WITH ANAPHYLACTIC ALLERGIES

A. PURPOSE

To establish protocol for the management of students with a known history of anaphylactic allergic reaction, in compliance with § 7-426.1 of the Education Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

B. BACKGROUND

Because of the life threatening nature of anaphylaxis, students who attend Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) who have anaphylactic allergies shall have an emergency protocol/plan on file at his/her respective school. A student may be prescribed by his/her physician an auto-injector epinephrine (Epi-Pen) for the treatment of anaphylaxis in the case of a severe allergic reaction. When a student has been prescribed by his/her physician an Epi-Pen for the treatment of anaphylaxis, the student may self-administer if authorized by the physician and school health professional. This regulation shall govern how appropriate personnel will deal with preparation and emergency response in the event that the student is unable to self-administer the Epi-Pen.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. *Anaphylaxis* is a severe life threatening allergic reaction, often explosive, a type of shock that can be fatal if not reversed within seconds or minutes of coming in contact with the allergen.
2. *Anaphylactic allergy* means a food, insect, etc. allergy that causes a severe, systematic reaction resulting in circulatory collapse, compromised respiratory system, or shock that may be fatal.
3. *Self-administer* means the application or consumption of medications in a manner prescribed by a health practitioner by the individual for whom the medication was prescribed without additional assistance or direction.
4. *Epi-Pen* means the auto-injector epinephrine that is administered to counteract the physiological aspects of anaphylaxis.

D. PROCEDURES

1. All AACPS schools that have a student(s) attending with a known anaphylactic allergy shall develop strategies to reduce the risk of such potential allergic reactions by:

- a. Maintaining on file a completed Parent's Request to Administer Medication at School Form (form) for the Epi-Pen prescribed by the physician;
 - b. Working in concert with the school health professional to ensure the appropriate staff members are aware of the student's allergy, can recognize the symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction, the location of and access to the student's Epi-Pen if the student is not able to self-administer, and instruction on the proper procedures to follow in administering the Epi-Pen;
 - c. Monitoring the strategies developed in accordance with the Maryland State School Health Services Guideline to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common areas;
 - d. Designating a food allergy-free table in the cafeteria, such as peanut-, tree nut-, and dairy-free;
 - e. Limiting activities to minimize the risk of anaphylaxis, if necessary; and
 - f. Establishing procedures for self-administration of medication by the student if the student is determined to be capable of and responsible for self-administration by the physician of the student, parent or guardian of the student, school health professional, and principal.
2. A principal may revoke the authority of a student to self-administer medication if the student endangers himself/herself or another student through misuse of the medication.
 3. Bus drivers shall be notified in advance of a student with an anaphylactic allergy on their bus by transportation personnel and receive training to recognize the symptoms of an allergic reaction and what to do if a reaction occurs, including the injection of an Epi-Pen for those students who are unable to self-administer.
 4. Students with anaphylactic allergies must carry a copy of a health care professional's medication order with their prescribed Epi-Pen in a fanny pack at all times while riding the bus. Bus drivers and bus attendants shall not be responsible for the custody of a student's Epi-Pen. Students must also sit in a designated seat on the bus which allows immediate access in the event an anaphylactic reaction occurs.
 5. Storage of an Epi-Pen on an AACPS school bus is prohibited because temperature sensitivity renders the contents ineffective.
 6. Emergency 911 shall be called after injection of the Epi-Pen whenever a student has had an anaphylactic reaction so the emergency medical technician or paramedics can continue administration of epinephrine. If the school health professional is not on site at the time of the Epi-Pen injection, the first responder to the student shall send documentation of the anaphylactic episode (vital signs, interventions, and student's identifying information) to the hospital with the EMS responders. A copy of the documentation from the hospital shall be requested of the student's parent or guardian for maintenance in the student's health record.

7. Pursuant to §7-426.1 of the Education Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, an employee or authorized agent who responds in good faith to the anaphylactic reaction of a student and who is not willfully or grossly negligent in their response is immune from civil liability for any act or omission in the course of responding to the reaction.
8. The school or its employee or authorized agent incurs no liability as a result of injury arising from self-administration of the Epi-Pen by the student, provided, however, that a parent or guardian may be required to sign a statement to acknowledge such if the student is deemed capable of self-administration.

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Note previous regulation history: None