

Dowagiac Union Schools

Administration of Epinephrine Auto-Injector Procedure

Dowagiac Union Schools are committed to the safety and health of all students and employees. In accordance with Michigan Public Act 187 the purpose of this procedure is to

- Provide a safe and healthy learning environment for students with food allergies;
- Reduce the likelihood of severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reactions;
- Ensure a rapid and effective response in the case of a severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reaction; and
- Protect the rights of food allergic students to participate in all school activities.

Definitions:

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death. A variety of allergens can cause anaphylaxis, but most common are foods, insect bites, medication, and latex. Anaphylaxis typically begins within minutes or even seconds of exposure. Initial emergency treatment is the administration of injectable epinephrine along with immediate summoning of the emergency medical personnel and emergency transportation to the hospital.

Symptoms of Anaphylaxis-

- Shortness of breath or tightness of the chest; difficulty in or absence of breathing
- Sneezing, wheezing or coughing
- Difficulty swallowing
- Swelling of lips, eyes, face, tongue, throat or elsewhere
- 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

Emergency Plan (ER Plan) is a written set of procedural guidelines that provide specific directions about what to do in a particular emergency situation.

Epinephrine (adrenaline) is the treatment of choice to prevent or treat anaphylaxis. It can help reverse the symptoms and prevent progression to other symptoms. It should be given immediately, a delay in treatment with epinephrine can be fatal.

Epinephrine auto-injector (Epi-Pen) is a device that is used for the automatic injection of epinephrine into the human body.

It is the procedure of Dowagiac Union School District to provide at least two (2) doses of auto-injectable epinephrine in each school, to be administered by the school nurse or designated school staff that has been trained by the school nurse on the administration of epinephrine to any student, staff or any other individual on school grounds who is believed to be having an anaphylaxis reaction.

Procedure 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 procedure **does not extend to activities off school grounds (including transportation to and from school, field trips and etc) or outside of the academic day (sporting events, extra-curricular activities, etc.)**

Training-

Building level administration shall be responsible for identifying at **least 2 employees, in addition to the school nurse to be trained in administration of epinephrine by auto-injector. Only trained personnel should administer epinephrine to a student believed to be having an anaphylaxis reaction. Training shall be conducted by the school nurse 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 student. Dowagiac Union Schools has received authorization from Jeffrey Leflein M.D. from Allergy & Immunology Associates of Ann Arbor to prescribe non-student specific epinephrine for the school district. This prescribe epinephrine will be administered to any student, staff, or visitor believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction on the school grounds during the academic day. Standing orders must be renewed annually and with any change in prescriber.

Storage, Access, and Maintenance-

Epinephrine should be stored in a safe, unlocked and accessible location. Epinephrine must be kept in the medication box and stored between 59-86 degrees F. Each building will be provided with a yellow storage box to be mounted in an area that will meet the above criteria. Epinephrine should **not be maintained in a locked cabinet or behind locked doors during the academic day. Staff should be aware of the storage location in each building. The medication should be protected from exposure to heat, cold, or freezing temperatures. Exposure to sunlight will increase the deterioration of epinephrine more rapidly than exposure room temperature. The expiration date of the epinephrine will be checked at the beginning of the school year by the school nurse and medication will be replaced prior to the expiration date.**

Responding to Anaphylaxis-CALL 911

1. Based on symptoms; determine that an anaphylactic reaction appears to be occurring. Look for medical alert bracelet or necklace. Act quickly. It is safer to give epinephrine than to delay treatment. Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening reaction.
2. If you are alone and are trained to provide epinephrine, call out or yell for help. If you are close to a phone call the main office for help and for someone to bring the epinephrine, call 911, call the school nurse, and notify parents. If you are not close to a phone, call or yell for help and immediately go get the epinephrine.
3. If you are alone and not trained to provide epinephrine, call or yell for help. If you are close to the phone call the main office for help and for someone to bring and administer the epinephrine, call 911, call the school nurse and notify parents.
4. Elementary buildings-select the appropriate dose of epinephrine auto-injector to administer based on approximate weight.

-Dosage:

Junior 0.15 mg epinephrine auto-injector is administered to student with the estimated weight of between 33 and 66 pounds.

Regular 0.30 mg epinephrine auto-injector is administered for student with the estimated weight of 66 pounds or greater.

5. Middle School, High School and Pathfinders-the epinephrine auto-injectors in the building are only the regular dosage due to the size of the students.
6. Inject epinephrine via auto-injector;
Pull off safety release cap
Place on injector on the upper, outer thigh and push firmly (through clothing if necessary)
Hold in place for 10 seconds (5 seconds if using Auvi-Q) to deliver medication and then remove.
Massage the area for 10 seconds and note the time the medication was administered.
7. If symptoms persist or return, a second dose should be administered 5 to 15 minutes after the first dose.
8. Keep the student either lying down or seated. Watch for vomiting or choking. If the student begins to lose consciousness, check if they are breathing. If the student is breathing, position on the side and continue to monitor. If the student is not breathing, begin CPR and call our for help.
9. Once EMS has arrived provide them with the auto-injector to transport to the emergency room with the student. Ensure that the necessary information is reported to the EMS personnel and the epinephrine auto-injector administration document has been completed and submitted to the school nurse.