

New Haven School Policy: Emergency Epinephrine Administration protocols:

Purpose

To ensure the safety of all students who may experience a suspected anaphylactic reaction, and to provide suggested guidance to the school nurse regarding the possible administration of epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPen® or generic) when believed to be or at least potentially indicated.

Policy Statement

The New Haven schools recognize that anaphylaxis is a potentially life-threatening emergency that may require immediate intervention. In accordance with Connecticut Public Act 14-176, Connecticut General Statutes §10-212a, and the Connecticut Nurse Practice Act, the school nurse is authorized to administer an epinephrine auto-injector in good faith to any student experiencing signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, even in the absence of a prior physician or APRN order.

Procedure

1. Initial Response

- Assess the student immediately for signs of anaphylaxis. Those symptoms may present as difficulty breathing, throat tightness, swelling of lips/tongue, generalized hives, dizziness, vomiting, or collapse.
- In those extreme emergent events, immediately dial **911** if anaphylaxis is at all suspected.

2. Administration of Epinephrine

- If symptoms are consistent with anaphylaxis, the nurse shall use **professional nursing judgment** to administer a stock available epinephrine auto-injector without delay.
- A second epinephrine auto-injector should be prepared and administered if symptoms do not improve or recur prior to Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”) arrival.

3. High-Risk Observation

- Following administration of any intervention, the student must remain under **continuous high-risk observation** by the school nurse until EMS personnel assume care.

- High-risk observation includes:
 - Continuous monitoring of airway, breathing, and circulation.
 - Appropriate positioning for airway and circulation (supine with legs elevated unless respiratory distress dictates upright).
 - Close monitoring for biphasic reactions (recurrence of symptoms after initial improvement).

4. Communication

- After administering epinephrine, the nurse (or designee) must:
 - Call **911** and follow EMS instructions.
 - Contact the student's parent/guardian.
 - Notify the following individuals:
 - **Monika Lopez, R.N.**
Nursing Coordinator – Nursing
New Haven Health Department
424 Chapel Street, New Haven, CT 06511
203-836-4088 | MLopez@newhavenct.gov
 - **Katherine Tucker, DNP, RN, APRN-BC, NE-BC, FADLN**
Program Director – Nursing
New Haven Health Department
424 Chapel Street, New Haven, CT 06511
475-331-7582 | KTucker@newhavenct.gov

5. Post-Event Documentation

- Documenting the event in the student's health record, including symptoms observed, time of administration, interventions performed, and persons notified, is INVARIABLY indicated.
- Complete any district-required incident reports.

Authority and Protection

- This policy affirms that the school nurse is legally authorized under Connecticut law to administer epinephrine in good faith judgment of a student experiencing anaphylaxis, even without a specific medical order.

- The nurse shall be protected from liability under state law when acting in good faith in accordance with this policy.

*** If you have any clinical questions regarding this policy or any other clinical matters, please contact:**

- **Monika Lopez, R.N., Nursing Coordinator –**
203-836-4088 | MLopez@newhavenct.gov
- **Katherine Tucker, DNP, RN, APRN-BC, NE-BC, FADLN, Program Director –**
475-331-7582 | KTucker@newhavenct.gov

Nursing Staff Acknowledgment and Sign-Off

I have read and understand the **Emergency Epinephrine Administration Policy** and agree to follow the policy and procedure outlined above.

Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____