

BACKGROUND

Severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) can be caused by a variety of triggers and most commonly include food & insect stings. Other common causes of anaphylaxis include allergies to latex, medications, and various environmental stimuli.

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY AND TREATMENT

Anaphylaxis can affect almost any part of the body and cause various symptoms. The most dangerous symptoms include difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, swelling of mucus membranes and a drop in blood pressure or shock, which are potentially fatal.

Medications:

- Epinephrine
- Antihistamines

Treatment of anaphylaxis is centered on treating the rapidly progressing effects of the histamine release in the body with epinephrine. The allergen should also be removed immediately.

CREATING AND ALLERGEN-SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

- Protecting a student from exposure to offending allergens is the most important way to prevent life-threatening anaphylaxis.
- Avoidance of exposure to allergens is the key to preventing a reaction.
- The risk of exposure to allergens for a student is reduced when the school personnel, medical provider and parent/guardian work together to develop a management plan for the student
- Educating the entire school community about life-threatening allergies is important in keeping students with life-threatening allergies safe.

THE SCHOOL TEAM

- Chief Operation Officer
- Chief of Student Support Services
- School Leader
- School Nurse
- Teachers
- Food Service Staff
- Coaches and Athletic Directors for extra-curricular activities
- Transportation Staff

Policy

Pursuant to ensuring the health and safety of students, a school nurse or trained school employee may administer auto-injectable epinephrine, as defined in RS 17:436.1 subparagraph (J)(4)(a) to a student who the school nurse or trained school employee, in good faith, professionally believes is

having an anaphylactic reaction, whether or not such student has a prescription for epinephrine. At least one employee at each school shall receive training from a registered nurse or a licensed medical physician in the administration of auto-injectable epinephrine. The school nurse or trained employee may administer the auto-injectable epinephrine to respond to a student's anaphylactic reaction, under a standing protocol from a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state. Each public elementary and secondary school may maintain a supply of auto-injectable epinephrine at the school in a locked, secure, and easily accessible location. A licensed physician may prescribe epinephrine auto-injectors in the name of the school system or the individual school to be maintained for use when deemed necessary pursuant to the provisions of this policy.

Anaphylaxis Management:

Anaphylaxis Algorithm available on-site with emergency medication for direction.

- Provide necessary precautions and general training for staff on school grounds, the cafeteria, or on school buses;
- Training by licensed medical personnel/ registered nurses for all adults in a supervisory role in the recognition and emergency management of a specific medical condition for specific students;
 - Create Individual Health Care Plans (IHP), Emergency Care Plans (ECP), 504 Plans, or Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) as indicated;
- Have standing emergency medical protocols “to authorize for nursing staff; to administer epinephrine to a student, in good faith, professionally believes is having an anaphylactic reaction, whether or not such student has a prescription for epinephrine, and to train school personnel to administer epinephrine” when the nurse isn’t available, relative to R.S. 17:436.1 (K).
- Maintain stock supplies of life saving emergency medications, as allowed by the laws of Louisiana, such as auto-injectable epinephrine (EpiPens), in all health offices for use in first time emergencies;
- Follow specific legal documents duly executed in accordance with the laws of Louisiana with medical orders regarding the care of specific students with severe life-threatening conditions;
- Allow self-directed students as assessed by the school nurse to carry lifesaving medication with prior approval by the medical provider, and according to health practice and procedures, as long as duplicate lifesaving medication is also maintained in the health office in the event the self-carrying student misplaces their medicines;
- Assure that appropriate and reasonable building accommodations are in place to a reasonable degree.