

Anaphylaxis Prevention and Response

Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening allergic reaction that may involve systems of the entire body. Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency that requires immediate medical treatment and follow-up care by a licensed health care provider (LHP).

The Keller Board of Directors expects school administrators, teachers and support staff to be informed and aware of life threatening allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) and how to deal with the resulting medical emergencies. For students, some common life threatening allergens are peanuts, tree nuts, fish, bee or other insect stings, latex and some medications. Affected students require planned care and support during the school day and during school sponsored activities.

Parents/guardians are responsible for informing the school about their student's potential risk for anaphylaxis and for ensuring the provision of ongoing health information and necessary medical supplies. The district will take reasonable measures to avoid allergens for affected students. The district will also train all staff in the awareness of anaphylaxis and prepare them to respond to emergencies. Additionally, student specific training will be provided for appropriate personnel.

Even with the district's best efforts, staff and parents/guardians need to be aware that it is not possible to achieve a completely allergen-free environment. However, the district will take precautions to reduce the risk of a student having an anaphylactic reaction by developing strategies to minimize the presence of allergens in schools.

The district may maintain at designated school locations a supply of epinephrine auto injectors. Undesignated epinephrine auto injectors must be obtained with a prescription in the name of the school by a LHP within the scope of their prescribing authority and must be accompanied by a standing order protocol for administration.

In the event a student with a current prescription for an epinephrine auto injector on file at the school experiences an anaphylactic event, the school nurse or designated trained school staff may use the school supply of epinephrine auto injectors to respond if the student's supply is not immediately available. In the event a student with undiagnosed anaphylaxis experiences an anaphylactic event, only the school nurse or the student's parent/guardian (if available) may utilize the school supply of epinephrine to respond under the standing order protocol.

The school's supply of epinephrine auto injectors does not negate parent/guardian responsibility to ensure that they provide the school with appropriate medication and treatment orders pursuant to RCW 28A.210.320 if their student is identified with a life-threatening allergy.

The superintendent will establish procedures to support this policy and to ensure:

- 1) Rescue protocol in cases of suspected anaphylaxis will follow OSPI's Guidelines for the Care of Students with Anaphylaxis (2009);
- 2) A simple and standardized format for emergency care plans is utilized;
- 3) A protocol is in place to ensure emergency care plans are current and completed;
- 4) Medication orders are clear and unambiguous;
- 5) Training of unlicensed staff and documentation is a priority, including the agreement in writing that the unlicensed staff agree to use the epinephrine auto injectors as a specific duty listed in their job descriptions; and
- 6) Each school's supply of epinephrine auto injectors, if any, is maintained pursuant to manufacturer's instructions and district medication policy and procedures.

Cross References: Policy 3416
Policy 3418
Policy 3419

Medication at School
Emergency Treatment
Self-Administration of Asthma and
Anaphylaxis Medications

Legal References:

RCW 28A.210.383
WAC 392-380

Anaphylaxis – Policy Guidelines –
Procedures – Report
Life-Threatening Health Condition

Management Resources:

Policy and Legal News, November 2013

Discretionary new epinephrine
autoinjector law allows districts to
stock and administer their own
supply of epinephrine autoinjectors

Policy News, August 2012

Anaphylaxis Prevention and Response

Policy News, February 2009

Anaphylaxis Prevention Policy Required

OSPI, March 2009

Guidelines for the Care of Students with
Anaphylaxis

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