

Anaphylaxis Policy

Reed Custer School District

Overview:

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life threatening reaction to an allergen. Some possible allergens can include latex, medications, foods (nuts, shellfish, eggs...), insect bites, and animal dander. As stated by Mayo Clinic, "Anaphylaxis causes the immune system to release a flood of chemicals that can cause you to go into shock — blood pressure drops suddenly and the airways narrow, blocking breathing. Signs and symptoms include a rapid, weak pulse; a skin rash; and nausea and vomiting." (MayoClinic, 2021). Recognition and treatment of anaphylaxis needs to be rapid. The allergen needs to be recognized and removed if possible. Treatment includes epinephrine and antihistamines.

- In an emergency where anaphylaxis is suspected please call 911 and administer Epinephrine auto injector. If symptoms do not relieve within 15 minutes and EMS have not arrived yet a second dose can be administered (maximum=2 doses). After administration elevate the person's legs and assess their pulse and breathing. CPR may be necessary if you feel no pulse.
- How to administer an Epinephrine auto injector: remove from clear carrier tube, hold the auto injector in your fist with orange tip facing down, with your other hand pull the blue cap off by pulling straight up, hold orange tip on outer portion of mid-thigh then swing arm back and firmly push auto injector into thigh until you hear it click. Hold there for 3 seconds. Massage area for 10 seconds. (you can do this over clothes)

Individuals Covered:

Those with an allergy action plan and individuals having a first-time anaphylactic shock.

Epinephrine:

EpiPen and EpiPen Jr are located in all three schools in the nurse's office. EpiPen is in a yellow box and it is 0.3mg and intended for individuals 66lbs or more. EpiPen Jr is 0.15mg and it is in a green box and is intended for individuals 33-66lbs. The undesignated epinephrine is stored in an unlocked cabinet with a label on the outside of the cabinet so it is noticeable in emergency situations. It is in a designated container for easy access. The EpiPens will be kept in a dark spot at room temperature per manufacturer's recommendation. Nursing and office staff are aware of location. Our school prescription is renewed annually and signed by Dr. Mark Passerman who is located in Braidwood,IL. There is monthly inspection of the EpiPens, where it is ensured that the medications are not expired or tampered with. If the undesignated epinephrine is used, then the "Undesignated Epinephrine Report" form is filled out before three days' post event and submitted to ISBE. Dr. Passerman is also informed. A new EpiPen will be ordered to replenish stock.

Creating an Allergen-Safe School Environment:

- Protecting a student from exposure to allergens is the most important way to avoid anaphylaxis
- Avoidance of exposure
- The risk of exposure to allergens is reduced when the school personnel, medical provider, student, and parents 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 allergies safe
- Constant collaboration between nursing and office staff of staying up to date on which students have allergies and which of them are life-threatening

School Team:

- District administrators
- Nursing staff
- Office staff
- Teachers
- Food service personnel
- Coaches, athletic directors, after school volunteers
- Transportation personnel

Anaphylaxis Management:

- Providing necessary precautions and general training for staff in transportation, classrooms, cafeteria, or the gymnasium
- 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
- Creating Individual Healthcare Plans, Emergency Care Plans, 504 Plans, or Individualized Educational Plans as identified
- Maintaining stock supplies of life saving emergency medications in all health offices, like EpiPens, as allowed by the law.
- Following specific legal documents, like medical orders, for students with specific life threatening conditions as duly expected in accordance with the law
- Allowing self-directed students as assessed by the school nurse to carry lifesaving medications with proper approval by the medical provider
- Assuring appropriate building accommodations are in place within a reasonable degree of medical certainty

Sources:

Used with permission from “Making the Difference in Caring for Students with Life-Threatening Allergies” -retrieved from:

<http://schoolhealthservices.org/uploads/anaphylaxis%20Final%206-25-08.pdf>

“Anaphylaxis” MayoClinic, October 2, 2021, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/anaphylaxis/symptoms-causes/syc-20351468>