



Statewide Standing Order for Epinephrine in School Settings

Date Issued: July 1, 2024

Purpose: To allow public and private K-12 schools to possess and administer epinephrine in the event of an anaphylactic reaction in a student in a school setting.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-3408 (D), this order authorizes any K-12 school nurse, school board employee, employee of a local governing body, or employee of a local health department who is authorized by a prescriber and trained in the administration of epinephrine, to possess and administer epinephrine to a student in the event of an anaphylactic reaction in a public school setting. This order authorizes an employee of a private K-12 school that is accredited pursuant to § 22.1-19 to possess and administer epinephrine to a student in the event of an anaphylactic reaction in a private school setting.

Eligible providers in public schools shall administer epinephrine in accordance with *Code of Virginia* § 22.1-274.2 (C) and all eligible providers shall administer epinephrine as described in the [Guidelines for Recognition and Treatment of Anaphylaxis](#) and [Medication Administration School Nurse’s Guide A Training Manual for Unlicensed Public School Employees](#). The school shall maintain a copy of the standing order, school policy and a list of trained school personnel for school records and provide this documentation to VDH upon request.

This order is effective from the date of issuance through June 30th, 2025, unless otherwise discontinued by the Commissioner or upon her resignation, removal, or retirement.

Approved Options for Auto-Injector Administration

Medication Name	Population Authorized for Use
Epinephrine Auto-Injector, USP 0.3mg	Individuals weighing 66 pounds or greater
EpiPen 2-Pak Auto-Injector, USP 0.3mg	
Auvi-Q Auto-Injector, USP 0.3mg	
Epinephrine Auto-Injector, USP 0.15mg	Individuals weighing between 33 and 66 pounds
EpiPen Jr. 2-Pak Auto-Injector, USP 0.15mg	
Auvi-Q Auto-Injector, USP 0.15mg	
Auvi-Q Auto-Injector, USP 0.1mg	Individuals weighing between 16.5 and 33 pounds

Directions for Use

- If anaphylaxis is suspected, inject epinephrine via auto-injector: Pull off safety release cap. Swing and jab firmly into the upper, outer thigh (through clothing if necessary). **Hold in place for 3* seconds to deliver medication and then remove.** *Note: Follow manufacturer instructions for delivery of medication ([Mylan EpiPen or generic](#)). Massage the area for 10 seconds. Note the time of administration.
- Call or have a bystander call 911 immediately or activate the Emergency Medical System (EMS). Explain to the 911 operator that anaphylaxis is suspected and epinephrine has been given.

- Keep the student either lying down or seated; never leave alone. If they lose consciousness, check if they are breathing and have a pulse. If not, begin CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), call out for help, and continue CPR until the individual regains a pulse and is breathing or until EMS arrives and takes over.
- Call the school nurse or assigned school health staff and notify the school administrator of the situation.
- Repeat the dose after 5 to 15 minutes if no improvement, symptoms persist, or symptoms return.
- Stay with the student until EMS arrives, continuing to follow the directions above.
- Provide EMS with epinephrine auto-injector labeled with name, date, and time administered to transport to the ER with the student. Use caution: auto-injector needle does not retract.

Common symptoms associated with anaphylaxis may include

- Difficulty breathing, wheezing
- Hives, generalized flushing, itching, or redness of the skin
- Swelling of the throat, lips, tongue, throat; tightness/change of voice; difficulty swallowing
- Tingling sensation, itching, or metallic taste in mouth
- Feeling of apprehension, agitation

Required follow-up after epinephrine administration

- Notify parent/guardian of incident.
- Request follow-up care by a healthcare provider and provide school with an Allergy Action Plan and medication for the student.
- Complete required documentation of event and return it to school health supervisor and school leadership.
- Notify local health director of a severe adverse event, such as death or hospitalization with intubation, following administration.
- Order replacement epinephrine auto-injector.

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Date: 6/26/2024