



O'DONNELL ISD HEALTH SERVICES

Anaphylaxis Protocol

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that has a rapid onset and may be fatal. During anaphylaxis, tissues in the body release histamines that cause the airways to tighten and lead to many systemic symptoms. Those that may be life threatening include difficulty breathing and swallowing, systemic hives or red rash, feelings of impending doom, wheezing, decreased blood pressure and loss of consciousness. Common causes of anaphylaxis include medications (antibiotics most common), foods, natural rubber latex and insect bites/stings. Food allergies are the most common source of anaphylaxis in children.

It is the position of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) that the safe and effective management of allergies and anaphylaxis in schools require a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach. The registered professional school nurse (if one is employed) or Administration designee, is the leader in providing planning, educating staff, providing a safe environment, and ensuring prompt emergency response should exposure to a life-threatening allergen occur.

Currently Epinephrine (EpiPens) provided by the school or individual with known allergies, will be stored in the nurse's office. If there is a known anaphylactic allergy to any of our student's or staff, a Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan should be completed and discussed with Health Care Services representative. Those older trained students may carry on body with approval of school nurse and parent. Non-patient specific EpiPens will be kept with other EpiPens in an unlocked, easily accessible display of the school nurses choosing (nurses' office Elementary campus and school front office Secondary campus). Ideally the school nurse will be delivering medication when the need arises. However, staff education, in compliance with Senate Bill 27, will be conducted annually regarding the care of students at risk for anaphylaxis. Each staff member will get a brief overview of epinephrine administration.

In the event any person (student/staff member, etc.) has the need of epinephrine for life saving measures, it will be standard practice at each campus that an ambulance will be called immediately.

(GREEN) EpiPen Jr. (0.15 mg) – For persons weighing 66 pounds or less

(YELLOW) EpiPen (0.3 mg) – for persons weighing more than 66 pounds