

EPINEPHRINE AND BRONCHODILATOR AVAILABILITY AND USE REQUIREMENTS

I. Purpose

The purpose of Policy JHCF is to authorize the acquisition of and administration of auto-injectable epinephrine and bronchodilators at all Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) sites.

II. Background

Due to an increasing number of young students with food allergies and asthma, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation requiring each local board of education to adopt a policy authorizing the availability and use of auto-injectable epinephrine and bronchodilators in public schools.

III. Definitions

In this policy, the following words have the meanings indicated.

- A. **Anaphylaxis:** A sudden, severe, and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that occurs when an individual is exposed to an allergen.
- B. **Asthma:** A chronic lung disease that inflames and narrows air passages, causing recurring periods of wheezing, chest tightness, shortness of breath, and coughing.
- C. **Auto-injectable epinephrine:** A portable, disposable drug delivery device that contains a premeasured single dose of epinephrine that is used to treat anaphylaxis in an emergency situation.
- D. **Bronchodilator:** Medication that relaxes bronchial muscles, resulting in the expansion of bronchial air passages to provide fast treatment of asthma-related symptoms and symptoms of respiratory distress.

IV. Policy Statement/Procedures

- A. The Board of Education authorizes a school nurse to obtain and store at a WCPS site auto-injectable epinephrine and bronchodilators to be used in an emergency situation.

1. Use of Auto-Injectable Epinephrine

- a. The Board of Education authorizes a school nurse and other school personnel, as set forth in the accompanying administrative regulation, to administer auto-injectable epinephrine utilizing an auto-injectable delivery device, if available, to a student who is determined to be or perceived to be in anaphylaxis, regardless of whether the student:
 - i. Has been identified as having an anaphylactic allergy, as defined in Section 7-426.1 of the Education Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*; or
 - ii. Has a prescription for epinephrine as prescribed by an authorized licensed health care practitioner under the Health Occupations Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

- b. Except for any willful or grossly negligent act, a school nurse or other school personnel who respond in good faith to the anaphylactic reaction of a student in accordance with state law may not be held personally liable for any act or omission in the course of responding to the reaction.

2. Use of Bronchodilator

- a. The Board of Education authorizes a school nurse and designated school personnel, as set forth in the accompanying administrative regulation, to administer a bronchodilator to a student who is determined by an individual who has undergone the training set forth in the accompanying administrative regulation to be or is perceived to be experiencing asthma-related symptoms or is perceived to be in respiratory distress, regardless of whether the student:
 - i. Has been diagnosed with asthma or reactive airway disease; or
 - ii. Has been prescribed a bronchodilator by an authorized licensed health care practitioner under the Health Occupations Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*.
 - b. A school nurse or other designated school personnel are prohibited from administering a bronchodilator to a prekindergarten student unless the student has been diagnosed with asthma or a reactive airway disease and has a prescription for a bronchodilator as prescribed by the student's health care practitioner.
 - c. Except for any willful or grossly negligent act, a school nurse or any other school personnel who respond in good faith to the asthma attack or respiratory distress of a student in accordance with state law may not be held personally liable for any act or omission in the course of responding to the student in distress.
- B. The Superintendent is authorized to promulgate an administrative regulation to implement this policy.

Legal Reference: Section 7-426.1 of the Education Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*
Section 7-426.2 of the Education Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*
Section 7-426.6 of the Education Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*

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Board of Education of Washington County