



Dartmouth Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to take a minute to discuss your child's life threatening allergy and school field trips. The Dartmouth Public Schools are registered with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health "for the limited purpose of permitting unlicensed, properly trained school personnel to administer epinephrine (by auto-injector) to students with a diagnosed life-threatening allergic condition when a school nurse (RN) is not immediately available". School nurses cannot delegate prn (as needed) medications including antihistamines, such as Benadryl, to unlicensed personnel (Board of Nursing, 244 CMR 3.05). Therefore, if the prescribed treatment of your child's life threatening allergy includes an antihistamine, only an Epi Pen will be administered on field trips or any other occasion where the nurse is not available. Epinephrine is the first treatment for any sign of an allergic reaction to food and delaying giving the Epi Pen greatly increasing the chance of a fatal reaction. If a student were to have an allergic reaction on a field trip the trained staff member will give the Epi Pen immediately, stay with the student and call 911. EMS (emergency medical services) will assess and determine if the student needs an antihistamine or any other medical treatment. The trained staff on the field trip will call the school to notify the nurse of the allergic reaction and that the Epi Pen was given and what hospital the student is being transferred to. The school nurse will then notify the student's emergency contact.

Thank you for your time and cooperation in this matter. If you should have questions, please call your school nurse directly.

Kelly Stowell, RN MSN

District Nurse Leader

David Clark, MD

District School Physician

"Quality Education for All Learners"

The Dartmouth Public Schools, in partnership with parents and the community, will deliver challenging, standards-based instruction for all students that fosters academic, physical, social and emotional development. Utilizing data analysis to drive instruction, we will implement specific strategies to support every student to think critically, solve problems and become a responsible, contributing citizen. Our high school graduates will possess the required skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in their academic and vocational ambitions.