

# Eastern Lebanon County School District

## School Health Services

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### Emergency Epinephrine Administration

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Public School Code provisions on “School Access to Emergency Epinephrine” and School Board Policy 210.1, the Eastern Lebanon County (ELCO) School District maintains a stock supply of epinephrine auto-injectors in each school building. An auto-injector prefilled with epinephrine is the drug of choice used for the emergency treatment of severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) to insect stings or bites, foods, drugs, and other allergens. If your child has been diagnosed with an allergy or health condition that requires use of epinephrine, it is still your responsibility to provide your child’s prescribed medication to the school nurse.

The law and Board Policy 210.1 gives trained school employees the authority to administer epinephrine to any student whom they believe in good faith is experiencing anaphylaxis. In the event that a student who does not have epinephrine is experiencing an anaphylactic reaction, a trained school employee may use the stock epinephrine auto-injector in accordance with the standing order issued by the school physician or provide the student with a stock epinephrine auto-injector for self-administration.

By law, the ELCO School District is required to notify parents/guardians of their ability to exempt their children from emergency administration of stock epinephrine auto-injectors.

Please complete the attached form (Refusal to Permit Administration of Stock Epinephrine for Emergency First Aid) and return it to your child’s school, if you **DO NOT** want a trained school employee to:

- Administer a stock epinephrine auto-injector to your child if they are believed to be experiencing a life-threatening allergic reaction (anaphylaxis); or
- Provide a stock epinephrine auto-injector for self-administration if your child is authorized to self-administer.

The refusal is valid for one school year and must be submitted each school year. If you change your mind after submitting the attached form, you must submit a written request notifying the school nurse that your prior refusal to permit administration of stock epinephrine for emergency first aid is revoked.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the nurse in your child’s school.

## **Information To Know About Emergency Epinephrine**

Emergency epinephrine is:

- Used to counteract anaphylaxis, a rapid, severe, life-threatening allergic reaction that can cause skin itching and hives, throat tightness, wheezing, and inability to breathe, and may result in death. Common allergens that can cause anaphylaxis include food, bee sting venom, medications and latex. A life-threatening reaction can occur within minutes or hours after exposure to an allergen. The treatment for anaphylaxis is prompt administration of epinephrine and transport by emergency medical services (EMS) to the nearest hospital emergency department.

Per Pennsylvania law, emergency epinephrine may be administered to:

- Students who have a known history of severe life-threatening allergies and have a prescription for an epinephrine auto-injector
- Students who have their first life-threatening allergic reaction to an unknown or undiagnosed allergy while at school

Persons who may administer emergency epinephrine include:

- A nurse working in the school building
- A trained unlicensed school employee (auto-injector only)

Emergency epinephrine is administered by either:

- Auto-injector (this is what we have in each building), or
- drawing medication from a vial into a syringe and injecting intramuscular

Emergency epinephrine is stored:

- In a secured location on school premises

## Refusal to Permit Administration of Stock Epinephrine for Emergency First Aid

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian), acknowledge that I have reviewed a copy of ELCO [School Board Policy 210.1](#) (Possession/Administration of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors) and this informational document; I have read and fully understand their content; and by signing this form, I refuse to permit a trained school employee to: administer a stock epinephrine auto-injector to my child in the event that they are believed to be experiencing a life-threatening allergic reaction (anaphylaxis); or to provide a stock epinephrine auto-injector for self-administration if my child is authorized to self-administer. I understand the possible negative health consequences for my child if they are experiencing a severe allergic reaction and do not receive emergency epinephrine.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
School / Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent / Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The refusal is valid for the current school year only. If you change your mind after submitting the attached form, you must submit a written request notifying the school nurse that your prior refusal to permit administration of stock epinephrine for emergency first aid is revoked.

Please return the completed form to your child's school nurse. The school nurse shall maintain the completed form in the student's health records file.

**For Use by Office** Date completed form received: \_\_\_\_\_ Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)

### Verification and Notification

The signed exemption form has been verified by contacting the above-named parent/guardian by phone on \_\_\_\_\_ (Date of phone call).

Building emergency medical team members and trained staff were informed of this opt-out in writing on \_\_\_\_\_ (Date of notification).

\_\_\_\_\_  
School nurse or designee printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
School nurse or designee signature