



POLICY: Emergency Medical Response

Approved by Governance Council: 11/5/2025

I. Purpose

To establish clear procedures for the recognition and management of medical emergencies—including injuries, sudden illness, seizures, and allergic reactions—in the high school setting. This policy ensures a prompt, safe, and effective response to protect student health and safety until Emergency Medical Services (EMS) or a parent/guardian assumes responsibility.

II. Scope

This policy applies to all medical emergencies occurring during the school day, on school property, or during school-sponsored activities where the school nurse is present or consulted.

III. Guiding Principles

- **Immediate Response:** Life-threatening conditions take priority.
- **Stabilization & Safety:** Interventions focus on maintaining airway, breathing, circulation, and preventing further harm.
- **Collaboration:** The school nurse coordinates with EMS, school staff, and families.
- **Confidentiality:** Student health information is protected under FERPA and applicable law.

IV. General Responsibilities of the School Nurse

- Maintain current certification in **CPR, AED, and First Aid**.
- Ensure availability and readiness of emergency equipment (AED, epinephrine, first aid kits, PPE, emergency medications).
- Train school staff annually in emergency recognition and first-response actions.
- Maintain **Emergency Action Plans (EAPs)** for students with known health risks.
- Lead and coordinate emergency response on site until EMS arrives.
Document all emergency care in the student's health record.





V. Standard Emergency Response Procedures

A. General Medical Emergency Protocol

1. **Assess scene safety.**
2. **Rapid assessment (ABCs):** airway, breathing, circulation.
3. **Call 911** if life-threatening condition is present or suspected.
4. **Initiate emergency intervention** appropriate to condition (see sections below).
5. **Notify school administration and parent/guardian.**
6. **Remain with student until EMS or parent assumes care.**

B. Injury

- Control bleeding with direct pressure; apply tourniquet only if bleeding is uncontrolled.
- Immobilize suspected fractures, dislocations, or head/neck/spine injuries—do not move student.
- Treat burns with cool (not ice-cold) water; cover with clean dressing.
For head injury: monitor for loss of consciousness, vomiting, confusion → call EMS if symptoms present.

C. Sudden Illness (fainting, breathing difficulty, chest pain, diabetic episode, etc.)

- Place student in safe position (lying flat if fainting, sitting upright if breathing difficulty).
- Check for medical alert ID, history, or EAP.
- Administer ordered emergency medications (e.g., inhaler, glucagon).
Call 911 for chest pain, difficulty breathing, altered consciousness, or uncontrolled symptoms.

D. Seizure

- Protect student from injury: clear area, cushion head, loosen clothing.
- **Do not restrain** or place objects in the mouth.
- Time the seizure.
- Position student on side (recovery position) when safe.
- Call 911 if: seizure > 5 minutes, repeated seizures, first seizure, or injury occurs.
- Administer emergency seizure medication (if prescribed in student's EAP).

E. Allergic Reaction / Anaphylaxis





- Recognize signs: difficulty breathing, swelling of face/throat, widespread hives, dizziness.
- Immediately administer **epinephrine auto-injector** (stock or student's own, per protocol).
- Call 911 immediately.
- Monitor airway and breathing; initiate CPR if necessary.
- Administer second dose of epinephrine if symptoms persist and EMS has not arrived (per standing order/state law).

VI. Post-Emergency Procedures

- Document assessment, interventions, and outcomes in the student's health record.
- Complete district accident/incident report.
- Debrief with school administration and staff.
- Update student's IHP/EAP if necessary.
- Restock emergency supplies used.

VII. Training & Compliance

- School nurses must maintain required licensure and emergency certifications.
- Annual review of this SOP will be conducted by the District Health Services Office.
- Compliance with **state Nurse Practice Act, NASN standards, and district policies** is mandatory.

