

Gerstell Academy

Physician Directed Treatment Protocol

Dear Gerstell Parents:

In order to ensure a rapid response to a child in the event of a reaction to an unknown allergen, such as a bee sting or eating something, we will implement a Physician Directed Treatment Protocol. This protocol is for an individual in school with an UNKNOWN History of Anaphylaxis or a Severe Allergic Reaction to be treated with an Epi-Pen. Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening type of allergic reaction, which usually involves more than one body system. Symptoms may start as itchy skin or hives and progress to swelling of the lips and tongue, to signs of respiratory distress. Death can occur within minutes, so immediate treatment is necessary. Epinephrine (Epi-Pen) is the single most important agent for treating anaphylactic reactions. It is a physician prescribed medication which counters the effects of histamine by constricting blood vessels and relaxing smooth muscles of the respiratory tract.

Dr. David Jerrard will be our prescribing physician for treatment and will provide Gerstell with the Epi-Pen and Epi-Pen Jr. to have on hand in case of an emergency. The treatment will be carried out by the school nurse or when deemed necessary, by other school employees. All Gerstell faculty and staff are CPR/First Aid certified and trained in administering Epi-Pens. 911 will be called and parent/guardian notified immediately. The treatment protocol will apply to individuals who suffer from unknown history of anaphylaxis or severe allergic reactions.

It will not apply to:

- Students with a known history of anaphylaxis or severe allergies who have their own Epi-Pen or medications available as directed by their private physician.
- Students whose parents, in collaboration with their physician, have declined treatment for their child because of valid medical reasons.
- Competent adults who refuse treatment.

There are no contraindications to the use of epinephrine (Epi-Pen) in a life-threatening situation.

Please note that the form in your packet "Health Care Action Plan for Allergies" only needs to be completed and signed by child's health care provider if they have a known allergy.

Sincerely,

Michele Slyman, R.N.
Gerstell Academy School Nurse