



EPIPEN POLICY

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Lathom High School seeks to provide a safe environment for staff and pupils who are at risk of severe allergic reactions. It undertakes to ensure that anyone suffering a severe allergic reaction will be treated appropriately and enabled to access emergency services promptly.

2. PROTOCOL

Anaphylaxis is a severe systemic allergic reaction. At the extreme end of the allergic spectrum, the whole body is affected usually within minutes of exposure to the allergen. It can take seconds or several hours.

Anaphylaxis involves one or both of two features:

- a) Respiratory difficulty (swelling of the airway or asthma)
- b) Hypotension (fainting, collapse or unconsciousness).

The symptoms are swelling of the mouth or throat, difficulty in swallowing or speaking, alterations in the heart rate, hives anywhere on the body, abdominal cramps and nausea, sudden feeling of weakness, difficulty in breathing, collapse and unconsciousness.

3. USE OF EPIPENS IN SCHOOL

Adrenaline (Epipen) should only be administered to students to whom it has been prescribed. This should be by a person who has received training and feels competent to use the device.

Parents are responsible for checking the Epipen expiry dates regularly. Students who have been prescribed an Epipen should keep it near them at all times, a spare Epipen which should be provided by the child's own GP will be kept in the medicine cabinet in Learning Support. If the student's Epipen is not available use the emergency Epipen which is located in the medicine box outside the meeting room.

4. RECORD KEEPING

- At the beginning of each school year or when a student joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their data collection form.
- This information is then added to the student's electronic file on SIMS under section 7. Health
- Staff are notified of students with any medical conditions or Individual Healthcare Plans.

HOW TO RECOGNISE AN ALLERGIC REACTION

The signs of a MILD REACTION are:

- Itching eyes/swelling eyelids
- Itching lips, mouth, throat
- Burning sensation in mouth

Action:

Call home – generally treated with antihistamine medication, in school or student collected and taken home.

The signs of a SEVERE REACTION are:

- Wheezy, difficulty breathing, coughing, choking
- Difficulty speaking
- Pale, sweaty, floppy
- A rash may also be present
- The child may collapse/become unconscious

Action:

- 1. CALL AN AMBULANCE IMMEDIATELY**
- 2. FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS -‘ADMINISTERING AN EPIPEN’**

ADMINISTERING AN EPIPEN

- **Adrenaline (EpiPen) should only be administered to students to whom it has been prescribed**
- **Use the student's own EpiPen – if not available use an emergency EpiPen. One is located in the medicine box in reception and sports hall entrance**
- Grasp EpiPen in dominate hand with thumb closest to grey safety cap
- With other hand, pull off the grey safety cap
- Hold EpiPen approximately 10cm away from the outer thigh
- Black tip should point to outer thigh
- Jab firmly into outer thigh so the EpiPen is at a right angle to outer thigh, through clothing
- Hold in place for 10 seconds
- EpiPen should be removed and handed to team taking over management of patient
- Massage injection area for 10 seconds
- Patient must go to A&E as relapse can occur within a few hours and/or further management may be required.
 - If conscious, lay the student on the floor
 - If unconscious, place the student in the recovery position with legs elevated