From the Office of:
Taylor Mulaj, BSN, RN
School Nurse, CCA

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you about an important health policy regarding the use of unassigned EpiPens at Cornerstone Christian Academy, (CCA).

In accordance with Texas Education Code §38.208, CCA has adopted a policy to allow trained and authorized school personnel to administer an **unassigned epinephrine auto-injector** – sometimes known as an EpiPen – to someone who is reasonably believed to be experiencing an anaphylactic reaction.

Usage Protocol

Our school staff has been trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and to administer an EpiPen. In the event of a suspected anaphylactic reaction:

1. The trained staff member will administer the EpiPen.
2. Emergency medical services (911) will be contacted immediately.
3. Parents or guardians will be notified as soon as possible.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. Symptoms can affect several areas of the body, including breathing and blood circulation.

What can cause anaphylaxis?

Food allergy is the most common cause of anaphylaxis, although several other allergens – such as insect stings, medications or latex – can be potential triggers.

What is an Unassigned EpiPen?

An unassigned EpiPen is a life-saving device that contains epinephrine, a medication used to treat severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis). These EpiPens are not prescribed to a specific student but are available for emergency use when a student exhibits symptoms of a severe allergic reaction and does not have a personal EpiPen available.

What is Epinephrine?

Epinephrine is a synthetic form of the hormone adrenaline. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved it as a safe and highly effective medication that can reverse severe allergy symptoms.

Epinephrine is the first-line treatment for anaphylaxis.

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Is there a risk associated with the administration of an Epinephrine Auto-Injector?

Because the risk of death or serious disability from anaphylaxis itself usually outweighs other concerns, existing studies clearly favor the benefit of epinephrine administration in most situations. There are no medical conditions which absolutely prohibit the use of epinephrine when anaphylaxis occurs (Boyce, 2010).

When are the Unassigned EpiPens available for students?

The Unassigned EpiPens will be available at the CCA campus during normal school hours. The EpiPens will not be taken off campus for any off-campus event.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

1. **Inform the School:** If your child has known allergies, please ensure that the school nurse is aware and that you have provided an updated FARE Allergy Action Plan (See link below for fillable PDF).
2. **Provide Medications:** If your child requires an EpiPen, please provide one to the school, clearly labeled with all necessary information.
3. **Update Information:** Keep your contact information and emergency contact details up to date with the school.

Parent Resources

- https://www.foodallergy.org/resources/anaphylaxis
- https://www.foodallergy.org/living-food-allergies/food-allergy-essentials/food-allergy-anaphylaxis-emergency-care-plan

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Communication

We understand that the use of unassigned EpiPens is a serious matter. We encourage you to discuss any concerns or questions with us. Our primary goal is to ensure the health and safety of all students.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued support in keeping our students safe and healthy.

Many Blessings,
Taylor R. Mulaj, BSN, RN
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