



## Statewide Standing Order for Epinephrine in School Settings

**Date Issued:** January 20, 2026

**Purpose:** To allow public and private K-12 schools to possess and administer epinephrine in the event of an anaphylactic reaction in a student in a school setting.

Pursuant to Virginia Code [§54.1-3408 \(D\)](#), this order authorizes any K-12 school nurse, school board employee, employee of a local governing body, or employee of a local health department who is authorized by a prescriber and trained in the administration of epinephrine, to possess and administer epinephrine to a student in the event of an anaphylactic reaction in a public school setting. This order authorizes an employee of a private K-12 school that is accredited pursuant to § [22.1-19](#) to possess and administer epinephrine to a student in the event of an anaphylactic reaction in a private school setting.

Eligible providers in public schools shall administer epinephrine in accordance with *Code of Virginia* § [22.1-274.2 \(C\)](#) and all eligible providers shall administer epinephrine as described in the [Guidelines for Recognition and Treatment of Anaphylaxis in the School Setting](#) and [Guidelines for the administration and medication training of epinephrine](#). The school shall maintain a copy of the standing order, school policy and a list of trained school personnel for school records and provide this documentation to VDH upon request.

This order is effective through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026 from the date of issuance unless otherwise discontinued by the Commissioner or upon her resignation, removal or retirement.

### Approved Options for Auto-Injector or Nasal Administration

Medication Name	Population Authorized for Use
Neffy (epinephrine nasal spray), USP 2mg	Individuals weighing 66 pounds or greater
Epinephrine Auto-Injector, USP 0.3mg	
EpiPen 2-Pak Auto-Injector, USP 0.3mg	
Auvi-Q Auto-Injector, USP 0.3mg	
Neffy (epinephrine nasal spray), USP 1mg	Individuals weighing between 33 and 66 pounds
Epinephrine Auto-Injector, USP 0.15mg	
EpiPen Jr. 2-Pak Auto-Injector, USP 0.15mg	
Auvi-Q Auto-Injector, USP 0.15mg	
Auvi-Q Auto-Injector, USP 0.1mg	Individuals weighing between 16.5 and 33 pounds

### Directions for Use (Auto-Injector)

- If anaphylaxis is suspected, inject epinephrine via auto-injector: Pull off safety release cap. Swing and jab firmly into the middle of the upper thigh, (through clothing if necessary). **Hold in place for 3\* seconds to deliver medication and then remove.** *\*Note: Follow manufacturer instructions for delivery of medication ([Mylan Epipen or generic](#)).* Massage the area for 10 more seconds. Note the time of administration.
- Call or have a bystander call 911 immediately or activate the Emergency Medical System (EMS). Explain to the 911 operator that anaphylaxis is suspected and epinephrine has been given.
- Keep the student either lying down or seated, never leave alone. If they lose consciousness, check if they are breathing and have a pulse. If not, begin CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), call out for help and continue CPR until the individual regains a pulse and is breathing or until EMS arrives and takes over.
- Call the School Nurse or assigned school health staff and notify the school administrator of the situation.
- Repeat the dose after 5 to 15 minutes if no improvement, symptoms persist or return.
- Stay with the student until EMS arrives, continuing to follow the directions above
- Provide EMS with epinephrine auto injector labeled with name, date, and time administered to transport to the ER with the student. Use caution: auto injector needle does not retract.

### Directions for Use (Neffy nasal spray)

Note: Neffy is for nasal use only. *Follow [manufacturer instructions](#) for delivery of medication.*

- ⊘ Each Neffy nasal spray is for single use and delivers the entire dose upon activation.
- ⊘ **Do not** prime or attempt to reuse Neffy for more than one administration.
- ⊘ Administer Neffy by inserting the nozzle of the nasal spray fully into one nostril until fingers touch the nose.
- ⊘ Hold the nasal spray straight into the nose - **do not** angle the nasal spray to the inside septum or outer wall of the nose as some medication may be lost.
- ⊘ Press the plunger firmly to activate.
- ⊘ **Avoid** sniffing during and after administration.
- ⊘ If a second dose of Neffy is needed, administer a new nasal spray into the same nostril starting 5 minutes after the first dose.
- ⊘ More than two sequential doses of epinephrine should be administered under direct medical supervision.
- ⊘ Call or have a bystander call 911 immediately or activate the Emergency Medical System (EMS). Explain to the 911 operator that anaphylaxis is suspected and epinephrine has been given.
- ⊘ Keep the student either lying down or seated, never leave alone. If they lose consciousness, check if they are breathing and have a pulse. If not, begin CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), call out for help and continue CPR until the individual regains a pulse and is breathing or until EMS arrives and takes over.
- ⊘ Call the School Nurse or assigned school health staff and notify the school administrator of the situation.
- ⊘ Stay with the student until EMS arrives, continuing to follow the directions above

- Provide EMS with epinephrine auto injector labeled with name, date, and time administered to transport to the ER with the student.

**Common symptoms associated with anaphylaxis may include**

- Difficulty breathing, wheezing
- Hives, generalized flushing, itching, or redness of the skin
- Swelling of the throat, lips, tongue, throat; tightness/change of voice; difficulty swallowing
- Tingling sensation, itching, or metallic taste in mouth
- Feeling of apprehension, agitation

**Required follow-up after epinephrine administration**

- Notify parent/guardian of incident
- Request follow up care by a healthcare provider and provide school with an Allergy Action Plan and medication for the student
- Complete required documentation of event and return to school health supervisor and school leadership
- Notify local health director of a severe adverse event, such as death or hospitalization with intubation, following administration
- Order replacement epinephrine auto-injector

Prescriber:   
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