



DR. MICHAEL J. MARTIRANO
Superintendent of Schools

St. Mary's County Public Schools

Central Administration
P.O. Box 641
23160 Moakley Street
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650
Phone: 301-475-5511, ext. 178
Fax: 301-475-4270

Board of Education
Dr. Salvatore L. Raspa, Chairman
Mrs. Marilyn A. Crosby, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Cathy Allen
Mr. William Brooke Matthews
Mrs. Mary M. Washington
Ms. Shannon Demehri, Student Member
Dr. Michael J. Martirano, Secretary/Treasurer

October 1, 2012

Dear Parents/Legal Guardians:

The Maryland legislature recently passed a bill requiring each county board of education to establish a policy to authorize the school nurse and other school personnel to administer auto-injector epinephrine, if available, to any student who is determined to be or perceived to be having an anaphylactic reaction. To ensure a safe and supportive environment for all of our students, auto-injector epinephrine will be available in the health suites at each of the St. Mary's County Public Schools during the instructional day.

Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening, acute, systemic type of allergic reaction. It occurs when a person becomes sensitized to a certain substance or allergen. On the second or subsequent exposure to the substance, an allergic reaction occurs. This reaction is sudden, severe, and involves the whole body.

An epinephrine injection is the treatment for anaphylaxis. It is a quick-acting medication that works against the physical symptoms related to anaphylaxis and should be administered directly into the muscle. If a student has an exposure or a suspected exposure to an allergen and is displaying the physiological symptoms of anaphylaxis, epinephrine will be given immediately, and the Emergency Medical Services (911) system activated. In most situations the school nurse will provide this emergency medication. In the absence of the school nurse, specifically trained school staff may administer the epinephrine. There are no contraindications to the use of epinephrine in a life-threatening situation. If you have not already made the school nurse aware of any life-threatening allergies your child may have, please contact your school.

Thank you for your assistance in implementing this requirement to ensure the health and safety of our students. Please contact the school nurse if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Patricia Winice, RN, MSN, NBCSN
Supervisor of Health Services