



California School Nurses Organization

Position Statement

PREVENTION OF ALLERGIC RESPONSE AND ANAPHYLAXIS REACTIONS

STATEMENT

The California School Nurses Organization recognizes that avoidance is the key to preventing anaphylaxis. Credentialed school nurses are uniquely qualified to supervise the management and treatment of life-threatening allergies. The school nurse is the key professional in the education setting to identify students who may be at risk for anaphylaxis, develop and implement an individualized school health plan (ISHP), including an emergency care plan, and train and supervise staff in the recognition and treatment of anaphylaxis.

The top five triggers of anaphylaxis are:

- Food (e.g. peanuts, shellfish, fish, tree nuts, milk, soy, wheat and eggs)
- Insect venom (e.g. bees, wasps, yellow jackets, hornets and fire ants)
- Latex (e.g. latex gloves, balloons, rubber bands, erasers, elastic, and car tires)
- Medication (e.g. antibiotics)
- Exercise (e.g. exercising within a few hours of eating or taking medication)

The California School Nurses Organization supports current law allowing students to carry and self-administer emergency epinephrine with health care provider authorization and parental consent per current education code and district policy.

RATIONALE

Insect stings account for 0.4 to 0.8 percent of all anaphylaxis cases in the U.S., while food allergies account for 35 to 50 percent of all cases (AAAAI). As many as 2 million school-aged children have food allergies, and approximately one in five of them will experience a reaction at school. It is important that school staff be aware of these allergies and educated in procedures to decrease the risk to students and staff.

The credentialed school nurse is the best qualified licensed professional in the educational setting to guide policy and procedures to prevent allergic responses and anaphylaxis reactions.

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