

## VIRGINIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

<b>TITLE: <i>Student Allergies</i></b>	<b>POLICY NUMBER: SH10</b>
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### **Policy Statement:**

The parents/guardians of Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind students are responsible for notifying the Student Health Center nursing staff of their child's allergies. The VSDB nursing staff requires written documentation from the licensed healthcare provider on how to treat the student during an emergency.

VAC 22.1-274.2. Possession and self-administration of inhaled asthma medications and epinephrine by certain students or school board employees.  
VAC 54.1-3408. Professional use by practitioners

### **Procedure:**

1. Parents/guardians are responsible for informing the VSDB nursing staff about their child's allergies (to food, medications, animals, etc.). Parents/guardians and healthcare providers must provide specific directions on how to treat the child during an emergency.
  - a. The family and healthcare provider will assist the school with developing a food allergy action plan.
  - b. The student's parents/guardians and healthcare provider are responsible for educating their child in the self-management of their food allergy which includes: knowledge of safe and unsafe foods, strategies to avoid exposure to unsafe foods, symptoms of allergic reactions, how and when to tell an adult that they may be having an allergy related problem, and how to read food labels.
  - c. The VSDB nursing staff will assist with reinforcing education to the student and other VSDB employees.
  - d. Students with food allergies will not be excluded from any school activities as long as he/she can participate safely. The Student Health Center nursing staff will notify all direct care staff of students with food allergies.
  - e. All VSDB employees should understand food allergies, be able to recognize the symptoms of an allergic reaction, and know what to do in an anaphylactic emergency.
  - f. VSDB employees must review student allergy lists or seek clarification from the SHC nursing staff prior to utilizing any food item in the educational or residential setting.
  - g. The Food Service Manager will design menu substitutions for students with food allergies. The Food Service Manager will perform a detailed in-service training for all food service staff on how to avoid cross-contaminating foods.
  
2. Any VSDB students that require an Epipen for allergies must have an *Anaphylaxis Emergency Action Plan* completed and signed by the student's healthcare provider.

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- a. The VSDB contract Physician's Standing Orders allows a licensed nurse to obtain and administer an EpiPen to a student who is having an anaphylactic reaction.
  - b. Unlicensed staff who have completed the VSDB medication aide training may administer the student's EpiPen as ordered per *VAC 54.1-3408 Professional use by practitioners*.
  - c. Any VSDB employee who witnesses someone on campus having an allergic reaction should immediately call 911 and the Student Health Center for assistance.
  - d. VSDB students may carry his/her own EpiPen with written approval from the student's healthcare provider, parent, and VSDB nursing staff. Additionally, the student must demonstrate to the VSDB nursing staff how to properly administer and manage the EpiPen; this should be noted on the *Anaphylaxis Emergency Action Plan*.
  - e. Students should notify an adult immediately if they eat something they believe may contain a food to which they are allergic or are exposed to a known allergen.
  - f. If the student self-administers their EpiPen, they should immediately notify an adult who will call 911 and the SHC nursing staff.
  - g. This is a serious, life-threatening event. A student that uses an EpiPen will be taken to the local hospital for evaluation and treatment.
  - h. The Student Health Center has additional EpiPens for use as directed by the VSDB contract standing orders.
3. The VSDB uses latex free gloves on campus.
  4. No latex balloons are allowed on the VSDB campus.
  5. Annual training is provided to all employees regarding allergies and how to properly use an EpiPen. In addition, VSDB employees receive EpiPen training every two years during their CPR/First Aid class.

<b><i>Rescission:</i></b> Effective Date: June 2015 BOV Approved: June 8, 2016; Revised: August 1, 2022
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