



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

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TO: District of Columbia School Epinephrine Liaisons

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CC: Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Health and Wellness
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SUBJECT: Ongoing National Epinephrine Supply Shortages

SUMMARY:

As a part of the Office of the State Superintendent of Education's (OSSE) ongoing effort to maintain clear communication and provide timely updates for all LEAs regarding the EpiPen4Schools® Program, OSSE would like to provide an update on the status of the national epinephrine shortage and resultant supply interruptions of epinephrine auto-injectors, as well as a reminder of key recommendations for schools. As a reminder, DC Official Code § 38–651.04a and Title 5-A DCMR 1103.1 require District schools to stock a minimum of two undesignated epinephrine auto-injector twin-packs at all times.

BACKGROUND:

Beginning in 2018, the supplier of epinephrine auto-injectors for the EpiPen4Schools® Program (Mylan) and the pharmacy assisting with epinephrine auto-injector orders (BioRidge Pharma) began issuing memoranda to its partners that shared information about an ongoing national shortage of epinephrine. This national shortage has impacted the timeliness of replacing epinephrine auto-injectors in schools in the District and across the country. OSSE has closely monitored the effects this supply interruption has caused on supplies of EpiPen® and EpiPen Jr.® auto-injectors for District schools, and has maintained regular communication with both Mylan and BioRidge Pharma. As of the date of this memo, Mylan is working closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to increase the manufacturer's capacity to produce epinephrine. Mylan has also [posted a notice on its website](#) addressing this ongoing shortage, and notes that availability may continue to differ from pharmacy to pharmacy.

IMPACT:

As of the date of this memo, supplies of adult dosage EpiPen® in District schools have not been significantly impacted. All District schools should have at least one undesignated unexpired adult dosage epinephrine auto-injector twin-pack (EpiPen 2-Pak®) to use in case of emergency.

OSSE is aware that EpiPen Jr® auto-injectors, however, are expiring in several schools this spring and that replacements may be delayed.

LEA epinephrine liaisons should continue to closely monitor their auto-injector supplies and to work with OSSE to make replacement orders as early as possible for used or expiring epinephrine auto-injectors. Due to the national supply disruption, OSSE will not consider a school out of compliance with the stocked undesignated epinephrine auto-injector requirement while they await shipment. OSSE will continue to work closely with LEA liaisons to ensure all locations receive the supports they need and have systems in place to address any anaphylactic emergencies that arise.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

As a part of this update, OSSE is offering the following recommendations to epinephrine liaisons:

- Continue to work with OSSE to make replacement orders for used and expiring epinephrine auto-injectors. OSSE will continue to maintain close communication with Mylan and BioRidge Pharma regarding the timely shipment for all placed orders. Due to delays in shipment, epinephrine liaisons should place orders 90-120 days before the expiration of epinephrine auto-injectors.
- As articulated in the District's standing order from the prescribing physician, EpiPen Jr.® auto-injectors are appropriate for individuals under 60 pounds; however, if an EpiPen Jr.® is not available or the weight of the child is difficult to determine, it is safe to use an adult dosage EpiPen auto-injector on an individual weighing under 60 pounds. Designated staff at each school are trained on this distinction.
- As articulated in the epinephrine training administered to designated staff, in the event of any suspected allergic or anaphylactic reaction, schools should continue to follow all emergency medical procedures, including administering epinephrine first and then immediately calling 911.
- Schools should continue to inspect epinephrine auto-injectors for discoloration, cloudiness, or other concerns with the supply. Designated staff at each school are trained to do this. Issues with the supply can be brought to the attention of the OSSE Allergy Management Team, osse.epi@dc.gov.

Schools serving upper grades, including middle and high schools, may see less of an impact of the EpiPen Jr.® supply interruption due to the likelihood of serving fewer individuals weighing less than 60 pounds on the campus. Nonetheless, OSSE is still committed to replacing auto-injectors at all District schools as expeditiously as possible. Please continue to access information about Allergy Management by visiting our website and reviewing OSSE's District-wide [Epinephrine Administration Plan](#). Please contact the OSSE Allergy Management Team with questions, osse.epi@dc.gov.