MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable JB Pritzker, Governor
    The Honorable Jim Durkin, House Minority Leader
    The Honorable Don Harmon, Senate President
    The Honorable Dan McConchie, Senate Minority Leader
    The Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch, Speaker of the House

FROM: Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
      State Superintendent of Education

DATE: September 23, 2021

SUBJECT: The Program and Administration of Undesignated Epinephrine Report, School Year 2020-2021

On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education, which is required under Section 22-30 of the Illinois School Code [105 ILCS 5/22-30] to issue this report, I am pleased to submit “The Program and Administration of Undesignated Epinephrine Report, School Year 2020-21.” This report summarizes the characteristics of cases and dosages of undesignated epinephrine administrations reported to the Illinois State Board of Education during the 2020-21 school year.

A summary of the major findings:

- There were 19 public schools across 14 districts and four nonpublic schools that reported 23 administrations of undesignated epinephrine during the 2020-21 school year. City of Chicago SD 299 experienced the greatest number with five instances.
- There were 20 student-reported instances and three staff-reported instances for a total of 23 reported administrations of undesignated epinephrine.
- A previously known diagnosis of a severe allergy was reported in eight of the student reports, none for the staff reports.

This report is transmitted on behalf of the State Superintendent of Education. For additional copies of this report or for more specific information, please contact Amanda Elliott, executive director of Legislative Affairs, at (217) 782-6510 or aelliott@isbe.net.

cc: Secretary of the Senate
    Clerk of the House
    Legislative Research Unit
    State Government Report Center
The Administration of Undesignated Epinephrine
School Year 2020-21

Illinois State Board of Education
Center for Safe and Healthy Climate
Wellness Department
September 2021

Darren Reisberg, Chairman
State Board of Education

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education
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Foreword

The administration of epinephrine via auto-injector from a stock supply to persons who may or may not have had a previous diagnosis of anaphylaxis to an allergen is permitted in Illinois schools by 105 ILCS 5/22-30. School Code requires a report form to be provided to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) by each Illinois public and nonpublic school that administers undesignated epinephrine. This report must be sent to ISBE within three days of the instance that necessitated use of the undesignated supply of epinephrine. This report is a compilation of data on the frequency and circumstances of administration of undesignated epinephrine during the preceding academic year and the names of districts or schools that have instituted a policy and procedure for the administration of undesignated epinephrine.

Inquiries regarding this report may be directed to Rebecca Doran at rdoran@isbe.net or Theresa Zumba at tzumba@isbe.net in the ISBE Wellness Department. They also can be contacted by calling (217) 782-5270.

Background

Section 22-30 of the Illinois School Code [105 ILCS 5/22-30] mandates that a school, whether public, charter, or nonpublic, must permit the self-administration and self-carry of an epinephrine injector by a pupil, provided that the parents or guardians of the pupil provide to the school written authorization for the self-administration and self-carry of an epinephrine injector; written authorization from the pupil’s physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse; and a written statement from the pupil’s physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse containing the name and purpose of the epinephrine injector, the prescribed dosage, and the time or times at which or the special circumstances under which the epinephrine injector is to be administered.

School districts, public schools, charter schools, or nonpublic schools may maintain a supply of undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors in any secure location that is accessible before, during, and after school where an allergic person is most at risk, including, but not limited to, classrooms and lunchrooms.

A school district, public school, charter school, or nonpublic school that maintains a supply of undesignated epinephrine injectors or has an independent contractor providing transportation to students who maintains such a supply must report that information to the State Board of Education upon adoption or change of a policy in a manner as prescribed by the State Board. The way schools notify ISBE of their undesignated epinephrine policy is discussed in the Methodology section on page 2. The report must include the number of undesignated epinephrine injectors in supply.

The State Board of Education shall submit a report to the General Assembly by Oct. 1 of each year identifying the frequency and circumstances of undesignated epinephrine administration during the preceding academic year. The report shall also contain information on which school districts, public schools, charter schools, and nonpublic schools maintain or have independent
contractors providing transportation to students who maintain a supply of undesignated epinephrine injectors.

Methodology

The 2020-21 epinephrine usage data collection was conducted using the “Undesignated Epinephrine Reporting Form” (ISBE 34-20) found at https://www.isbe.net/Documents/34-20-undesignated-epinephrine-rptg.pdf. Schools emailed the forms to epinephrine@isbe.net. The first reported use of undesignated epinephrine occurred on Aug. 26, 2020, and the last on July 22, 2021.

The 2020-21 epinephrine policy data collection was conducted using the “Undesignated Epinephrine Policy Form” found https://forms.office.com/r/yYmNRiHX2m. ISBE staff reviewed the forms and contacted school staff if additional information was needed.

Limitations

The following limitations in the data collection should be noted:

- The validity of the data reported is subject to the limitations of the aggregate nature.
- Reports not submitted via the email address may not be compiled with the electronic data.
- Data is not collected from schools that are not registered with ISBE.
- Detailed items like triggers may include multiple categories of triggers and may not indicate a case-by-case count.
- The potential trigger for the allergic reaction is not necessarily a medical diagnosis, as information on follow-up medical care was not collected.
- Percentages may not equal 100 for all data tables and figures due to rounding.
- This report does not include administration by school staff or by a student from the student’s own supply of (designated) epinephrine.

School Year 2020-21 Results

ISBE received reports of 23 instances of administration of undesignated epinephrine during the 2020-21 school year. There were 19 public schools across 14 districts and four nonpublic schools that reported the administrations. City of Chicago SD 299 experienced the greatest number with five instances. A previously known diagnosis of a severe allergy was reported in eight of the student reports, none for the staff reports.
Background and age

There were 23 reported administrations of undesignated epinephrine -- 20 of them (87 percent) reported by students and three (13 percent) -reported by staff. Two staff-reported instances did not list age.

Figure 1.

- The figure above shows ages 7 (n=3) and 13 (n=3) had the two highest totals for reported single-dose administration of epinephrine, with three reports for each age.
- Thereafter, ages 11, 15, 16, 18, and UNK reported two single-dose administrations of epinephrine for each age.
- All other ages reported a single-dose administration of epinephrine.
Triggers by category

There are four broad categories of triggers -- food, insect, other, and drug -- listed on the reporting form.

Figure 2.

- Students aged 7, 11, 13, and 16 had two reports each of food-related episodes. Students aged 7 and 8 had one report each of insect-related episodes. Students aged 9, 13, 14, 16, and 18 had one report each of other-related episodes.
- Eight (34.7 percent) of the students had a previously known diagnosis of a severe allergy.
- No staff reports had a previously known diagnosis of a severe allergy.

Food-related triggers

Details on the type of food trigger were given for 13 of the 15 reports citing food-related triggers. Three (13 percent) of the food-triggered instances listed peanuts, tree nuts, or sunflower seed/product. Four (17 percent) of the food-triggered instances listed granola, protein bar, trail mix as the identified food product; however, further dissemination cannot be completed without ingredient lists. Other food identified triggers were tuna fish (n=1), citrus (n=1), peppers (n=1), mac n’ cheese (n=1), cannoli (n=1), and rice crispy treat (n=1). Two reports did not identify the food product trigger.
Drug-related triggers

Table 1. Drug-related triggers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNT</th>
<th>Trigger (Per report form ISBE 34-20 (8/16) DRUG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MODERNA COVID VACCINE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A single report of a drug-related trigger was by a staff member.

Insect-related triggers

There were two reports of insect-related triggers; one identified bee as the trigger, the other report did not specify the type of insect.

Other triggers

Five reports indicated a trigger as “other.” No further comments were provided.

Location of symptoms

The location of symptom development was listed as within a school building in 22 (96 percent) of reports. One report (4 percent) indicated the episode occurred on school grounds.

Time of day for reported cases

Approximately 22 percent (n= 5) of the reports occurred between 6:15 - 10:59 a.m. Thirty percent (n=7) of the reports occurred between 11 a.m. - 12:59 p.m. The highest percentage, 43% (n=10), of the reports occurred between 1 – 3 p.m. One report occurred at 6:30 p.m.

Number of undesignated epinephrine doses administered per report

A single dose of epinephrine was administered in all 23 reports. No reports indicated administration of two or more doses of undesignated epinephrine.

Person administering the epinephrine

Twenty-two instances (96 percent) identified the person administering the epinephrine as a registered nurse. One report (4 percent) identified the person administering the epinephrine as a trained personnel.
Epinephrine policy reports

A school or district that institutes a policy or program offering undesignated epinephrine, revises an existing policy or program, or contracts with a student transportation company that has instituted such a policy and program must notify ISBE. Districts or schools that had neither a program to provide undesignated epinephrine nor a separate contracted student bus transportation company that offered the same did not need to report. Nine districts reported to ISBE of newly adopting an undesignated epinephrine protocol and policy. There were zero reports of districts having independent contractors that provided student transportation and maintained a supply of undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors.

Table 2. Districts/schools reporting undesignated epinephrine administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Name &amp; Number</th>
<th>Name of School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arlington Heights SD 25</td>
<td>Ivy Hill Elem School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champaign CUSD 4</td>
<td>Jefferson Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Chicago SD 299</td>
<td>Wentworth Elem School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Chicago SD 299</td>
<td>Hendricks Elem Community Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Chicago SD 299</td>
<td>Curie Metropolitan High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Chicago SD 299</td>
<td>Amundsen High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Chicago SD 299</td>
<td>Pershing Elem Humanities Magnet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elmwood Park CUSD 401</td>
<td>Elmwood Elem School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freeport SD 145</td>
<td>Freeport High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenbard Twp HSD 87</td>
<td>Glenbard North High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harvest Christian Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Academy Sacred Heart/Hardey Prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fenwick High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cornerstone Christian Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paxton-Buckley-Loda CUD 10</td>
<td>Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plainfield SD 202</td>
<td>Plainfield East High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plano CUSD 88</td>
<td>Plano High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD U-46</td>
<td>Kimball Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Charles CUSD 303</td>
<td>Richmond Intermediate Sch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit Hill SD 161</td>
<td>Dr Julian Rogus School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Township HSD 214</td>
<td>Buffalo Grove High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheeling CCSD 21</td>
<td>Cooper Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilmette SD 39</td>
<td>Wilmette Junior High School</td>
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</tbody>
</table>