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TO: Massachusetts Public and Non-Public Schools

FROM: Karen Robitaille, Director, MDPH School Health Services

SUBJECT: The Administration of Epinephrine in Schools

DATE: September 23, 2024

Epinephrine is a hormone that the adrenal glands produce in the body. People who have allergies to specific foods, insect venom, or other substances can be prescribed epinephrine in case of emergencies to respond to allergic reactions.

On August 9, 2024, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved *neffy* (epinephrine nasal spray) for the emergency treatment of allergic reactions (Type I), including those that are life-threatening (anaphylaxis), in adult and pediatric patients who weigh at least 30 kilograms (about 66 pounds).[1, 2]

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 54B, codified the availability of epinephrine for the treatment of anaphylaxis in accordance with the Department of Public Health's regulation concerning the administration of medications in school settings. Section 54B did not specify route of administration, however, the Department's regulation, 105 CMR 210.00 specified a method of administration, identifying auto-injector as a method of administrating epinephrine.[3]

This advisory seeks to make clear that the language 105 CMR 210.100 regarding the administration of epinephrine, **applies to ALL available, FDA-approved, pre-dosed forms of epinephrine.**

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[1] Press Release, U.S. Food & Drug Admin., FDA Approves First Nasal Spray for Treatment of Anaphylaxis (Aug. 9, 2024), *available at* https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-nasal-spray-treatment-anaphylaxis.

[2] More information about *neffy*, including indications, dosing, and instructions for administration can be found on the product website.

[3] M.G.L. c. 71, § 54B, *available at* https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII/Chapter71/Section54B; 105 CMR 210.000, *available at* https://www.mass.gov/regulations/105-CMR-21000-the-administration-of-prescription-medications-in-public-and-private-schools.