



September 6, 2018

Dear Health Care, School Health and Child Day Care Providers:

Anaphylaxis is a severe, generalized allergic or hypersensitivity reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death. The main medicine to treat anaphylaxis is epinephrine. Epinephrine should be prescribed for anyone who has ever had an anaphylactic attack and for children at high risk for anaphylaxis. Effective management of anaphylaxis in the community requires a comprehensive approach involving children, families, preschools, schools, camps and sports organizations. It also involves education of children and supervising adults about anaphylaxis recognition and first-aid treatment, including the administration of self-injectable epinephrine.

Many individuals rely on self-injectable epinephrine products, such as EpiPen, to reverse life-threatening reactions to bee stings or other allergens for themselves or their children. There continues to be an intermittent supply shortages of self-injectable epinephrine products during the back-to-school season, when demand for EpiPens increases. The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) is acting to temporarily mitigate these shortages by extending the expiration date of certain lots of 0.3 milligram autoinjectors. The full list is available at: <https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/ucm563360.htm>.

The New York State Department of Health, New York State Education Department and New York State Office of Children and Family Services make the following recommendations for healthcare providers, schools, and child day care providers:

- Work with individuals/families to check their self-injectable epinephrine supply and direct them to the FDA list of specific lots of EpiPen that have extended expiration dates so that they are aware of this new information.
- Ensure that patient/families are aware how to store self-injectable epinephrine products at room temperature.
- Encourage families to talk to their health care provider or pharmacist to look into alternatives if feasible for the patient.

We look forward to the school year ahead and working together to keep all our young people healthy.

Sincerely,

Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D.
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of Health
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