

Pharmacies supporting local schools for the Protection of Students with Life-threatening Allergies Act

Background

On January 1, 2020, The Protection of Students with Life-Threatening Allergies Act will come into effect. The Act supports students with life-threatening allergies by ensuring every school in the province has at least one epinephrine auto-injector device (EpiPen) for use in the event of a severe allergic reaction. The act requires that a minimum of one EpiPen and/or EpiPen Jr. be stocked in each school operated by the board. School authorities are expected to collaborate with local community pharmacies and health partners to determine the appropriate types of EpiPens to have in schools

Process for Pharmacies and Schools

Alberta Health has been working closely with the Ministry of Education and pharmacy stakeholders such as the Alberta Pharmacists' Association and Alberta College of Pharmacy to develop an innovative approach for community pharmacists to engage with local schools. The Ministry of Education has provided an authorization form for school employees to purchase EpiPen auto-injectors on behalf of their school. The authorized employee will have to present the form to their local pharmacy in order to obtain an EpiPen auto-injector. Pharmacists will obtain EpiPen auto-injectors for the schools they have partnered with through stock that has been allocated for this initiative from McKesson Canada.

Over the next few weeks, schools will be contacting their community pharmacists and working with them to determine the needs of their students. Pharmacists will be assisting schools by providing access to these devices and training. As each school's student population is unique, school authorities are expected to collaborate with local pharmacies to determine the appropriate type and number of EpiPen auto-injectors for the schools. Due to limited expiry dates and potential for short supply, more EpiPen auto-injectors than required should not be ordered.

The Alberta College of Pharmacy has drafted standards to enable the implementation of the Act. These standards are open for consultation and can be viewed here, <https://abpharmacy.ca/consultations>. The consultation for these standards closes on December 31 and council is expected to review the feedback from the consultation and approve the standards with any necessary amendments on January 2, 2020. Until the standards are approved, pharmacists are not enabled to dispense epinephrine autoinjectors to school boards.

For more information on the role of pharmacists under this Act, please contact Krystal Wynnyk, Manager of Pharmacy Programs and Special Projects, Alberta Pharmacists' Association, 587-756-8720.

The authorization from which will be brought to the pharmacy by the authorized school employee will be of the format below.

3. Assessment of School Needs for Auto-injectors

The information in this section is intended to capture the overall school population demographics and is not for specific individual information. It should not contain personally identifying information. The information will be used to support the pharmacist in complying with the Guidelines of the Alberta College of Pharmacy to determine an appropriate number of epinephrine auto-injectors to provide.

School Demographic Information (please check all that apply):

Kindergarten Grade(s): _____

Elementary Grade(s): _____

Junior High Grade(s): _____

High School Grade(s): _____

Number of students that attend school _____

In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, approximately how long would it take for emergency responders to arrive and take over care of the child?

15 minutes or less

More than 15 minutes

4. Epinephrine Auto-Injector Record of Sale to Authorized Employee

The information in this section is to be completed by the pharmacy and serves as a record of the types, number and date of epinephrine auto-injectors provided to the authorized employee on behalf of the school/school authority.

	Quantity provided	Date Provided
<input type="checkbox"/> Epinephrine 0.15 mg		____/____/____ dd / mm/ yyyy
<input type="checkbox"/> Epinephrine 0.3 mg		____/____/____ dd / mm/ yyyy
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		____/____/____ dd / mm/ yyyy

5. Pharmacy Provider Information

Pharmacy Name	
Pharmacy Address	
Pharmacy Phone Number	
Pharmacist Contact Name	

A copy of this completed form should be provided to and retained by the school/school authority and pharmacy for record-keeping.

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How to order epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPen)

Schools will be able to pick up the stock they have ordered no sooner than January 6, 2020. However, they can present the authorization form and begin discussions with the local pharmacy to identify the needs of the school and order epinephrine auto-injectors prior to January 6. School authorities and schools should make arrangements with local pharmacies for picking up their EpiPen auto-injectors in January 2020.

Due to limited expiry dates and potential for short supply, more EpiPen auto-injectors than required should not be ordered. A special supply of EpiPen auto-injectors has been allocated as dedicated stock for this Act. Initial orders for the January implementation of the Act will be limited to one of each of EpiPen and/or EpiPen Jr. auto-injector per school that a pharmacy has been contacted by. Subsequent orders for additional EpiPen auto-injectors to meet the unique needs of schools can be placed after the initial distribution is completed. Further information on timing and availability of this second distribution will be available once these needs have been further determined.

For more information on ordering of epinephrine auto-injectors or to set up an account for ordering, please contact McKesson Canada Customer Service at 1-866-203-5233.

To ensure that the correct EpiPen auto-injector stock is ordered, please use the following McKesson Item Numbers for the EpiPen auto-injector for the Act:

- EpiPen Auto Inj Jr 0.15mg – Item # 147476
- EpiPen Auto Inj 0.3mg – Item # 147478

When you have questions:

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at:

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area) • **403-294-4041** (Calgary and area) • **1-800-361-9632** (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area) • **FAX 1-877-305-9911** (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefits and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims. **Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php**



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