

Epi Pens and Camps Updated 05/24/2016

Childhood allergies are on the rise. According to research conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, twenty-five percent of children have their first allergic reaction at school or while participating in out-of-school activities — such as camp. In most states; schools, camps, and other youth serving programs are not legally authorized to have epinephrine auto injectors (*) in stock in the camp or school health center. In this case, the only option is to call 9-1-1- and hope that medical personnel with the appropriate medication can reach the child quickly.

Many states are now in the process of updating their laws to allow for schools — and in some cases, camps — to not only have epinephrine auto injectors in stock, but to be eligible to receive free or reduced-cost auto injectors from commercial companies. The American Camp Association will continue to partner with others to advocate for schools, camps, and other youth serving programs to have access to these life-saving auto-injectors.

Current State Laws Regarding Epi-pens and Camps

Colorado: An authorized entity—including recreation camps, day care centers, and others—may acquire a prescription for epinephrine and store them on site. A person must complete an anaphylaxis training program before using an epinephrine auto-injector. Once trained, the individual may administer epinephrine to those who they believe in good faith is experiencing anaphylaxis. Training must be conducted by nationally recognized organization or by an entity approved by Department of Health. Under Colorado Law [25-47-101](#)

Florida: An individual who is certified through an educational training program to administer epinephrine auto-injectors is authorized to receive a prescription for epinephrine auto-injectors, and the certification authorizes the holder to possess and administer epinephrine to a person experiencing a severe allergic reaction. Certification is allowed for individuals who are responsible for or have contact with at least one other person as a result of his or her occupational or volunteer status, including camp counselors, scout leaders, forest rangers, tour guides, or chaperones under Florida Law [381.88](#)

New York: Any eligible person, firm, organization, or other entity may purchase, acquire, possess and use epinephrine auto-injector devices pursuant to a collaborative agreement with an emergency health care provider. Under the law, a children's overnight camp, a summer day camp, a traveling summer camp, or a person employed by such a camp are eligible through New York law [§3000-c](#)

North Dakota: An individual authorized to administer an epinephrine auto-injector by the state health officer may obtain premeasured doses, and is not liable for administering dosage if they believe an individual is having a severe allergic shock. A layperson may become authorized under North Dakota Law [23-01-05.2](#)

Ohio: An eligible person, firm, or other organization may procure epinephrine auto-injectors for use in emergency situations. A camp that elects to procure epinephrine auto-injectors under this section is encouraged to maintain at least two epinephrine auto-injectors at all times. A residential camp, a child day camp operated by any county, township, or municipal corporation are eligible though Ohio Law [5101.76](#)

Oregon: An individual trained and certified to administer epinephrine in emergency situations can receive a prescription for one adult and one child, and the prescription can be refilled up to four times. An entity that employs a certified person may acquire premeasured doses of epinephrine and the necessary paraphernalia through a prescription in the name of the entity that employs a certified person. Under Oregon Law [433.825](#)

Utah: A person may receive training and certification for administering and storing epinephrine if they demonstrate a need for such training. This includes camp counselors, scout leaders, forest rangers, and tour guides. Certified individuals may then receive a prescription for epinephrine auto-injectors for use in situations where an individual is exhibiting severe symptoms of anaphylaxis. Under Utah Law [26-41-104](#)

Washington: Prescribing health care practitioners may prescribe epinephrine auto injectors to authorized entities, including recreation camps. These entities or organizations may acquire and stock a supply of epinephrine auto injectors provided they follow Department of Health (DOH) requirements. Those administering an epinephrine auto injector must go through training as described under updated Washington Law Chapter [70.54 RCW](#).

**An epinephrine auto injector provides an emergency injection ("shot") of epinephrine. It is a medicine used for life-threatening allergic reactions such as severe swelling, breathing problems, or loss of blood pressure. Allergic reactions can be caused by stinging and biting insects (bugs), allergy injections, food, medicines, exercise, and other, unknown causes.*

Resources

[American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology](#)

[Food Allergy Research and Education](#)

[Centers for Disease Control: Voluntary Guidelines for Managing Food Allergies in Education Programs](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics](#)