Thursday, May 25, 2017

To our school administrators and medical personnel:

As you are already aware, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 1266 (Huff) into law on September 15, 2014, which, among other changes, authorizes school nurses and trained personnel to use epinephrine auto-injectors (EAIs) to provide emergency medical aid to persons believed to be suffering from an anaphylactic reaction, and requires public schools to stock and make EAIs available for such emergencies.

This bill implements several changes to the state Education Code. Among them is §49414 (B)(2), which defines the physician which may authorize prescription of EAIs. This section enables any licensed physician to do so, including but not limited to contracted physicians that may work for your district or school, the director of the local emergency medical services agency, or the medical director of the local health department, which in most counties in California is the Public Health Officer.

The Department of Public Health strongly encourages your school district to consider the use of a contracted physician for the provision of this and other services which may require a physician license. Nevertheless, the department understands that you may not be able to establish such a relationship in time for implementation, and because we regard SB 1266 as a bill that will save lives by making anaphylaxis treatment much more readily available, the department will assist if no other timely option is available by providing prescription authorization pursuant to Ed §49414 (B)(2) as a provider of last resort.

To request a prescription under Public Health Officer authority, please complete the provided Excel template (available from the Riverside University Public Health website at <http://www.rivcoph.org/> ) and fax a printed copy to the telephone number listed. Keep the completed template for your records. Please include the pharmacy contact information, the specific type(s) or brand(s) desired, and the quantit(y/ies) requested. Incomplete or illegible prescription requests or requests not accepted by the pharmacy will not be processed. All prescriptions require annual renewal.

Please also note the following limitations:

• The Department is not liable for requests that cannot be processed for any reason, no for any delays in processing or provision. Please allow at least seven (7) business days for processing.

• All legal liability for the use and deployment of EAIs is borne by your institution.

• The Department does not stock EAIs, and cannot cover the cost of their provision or storage. Provision must come from an authorized pharmacy pursuant to B&P §4119.2 (a) and (b). All costs of prescription, transport, storage and supply monitoring are borne by your institution.

• The Department, nor the Public Health Officer or CCS Medical Director, cannot provide on-call consultation for the use of an EAI, nor do we provide training or protocols. School administration is expected to review and implement a desired protocol, determine standards for training and implement them pursuant to Ed §49414 (e) and (f).

For questions regarding submission of a prescription request, please contact my office at +1 951 358 7036 during normal business hours.

We hope that by making epinephrine auto-injectors more widely available in our schools that we will save lives of those who have severe anaphylactic reactions. We appreciate your help in doing so.

Sincerely,

Cameron Kaiser, MD, MPH, FAAFP

Public Health Officer

County of Riverside