



Westland Middle School
An International Baccalaureate World School
5511 Massachusetts Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20816
Phone: 240-740-5850 Fax: 301-320-7054



July 11, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The health and well-being of your children is of utmost importance to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).

Anaphylaxis Awareness

The Montgomery County Board of Education adopted Policy JPD, *Emergency Care for Students Experiencing Anaphylaxis*, and MCPS adopted Regulation JPD-RB, *Emergency Care for students Experiencing Anaphylaxis*, to safeguard your children in the event of an emergency.

If your child has a known anaphylactic allergy, the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article, Section 7-426 states that parents/guardians are responsible for notifying schools of a child's special health care needs or diagnoses and proving appropriate medications. These medications may be kept in the school's health room for your child's use in case of an emergency. To do this, you will need to complete MCPS Form 525-14, *Emergency Care for the Management of a Student with a Diagnosis of Anaphylaxis: Release and Indemnification Agreement for Epinephrine Auto-Injector* and deliver the properly labeled epinephrine auto-injector to the school. The form may be obtained from your school community health nurse or online at <https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/525-14.pdf>.

We understand that parents/guardians or students may not know of an anaphylactic allergy until an emergency arises. Maryland requires that all schools train their staff members to recognize signs of anaphylaxis and maintain a stock supply of epinephrine auto-injectors (i.e., EpiPens®) for use in case of an emergency. Designated staff members at each school are trained to administer EpiPens®. Please be assured that whenever an epinephrine auto-injector is used, whether it belongs to your child or is one of the school's stock supplies, 9-1-1- and you will be called.

Opioid Awareness

The *Start Talking Maryland Act*, enacted in 2017, requires school boards of education to:

- develop a policy to store naloxone in schools and authorize designated staff members administer it when it is reasonably believed that an individual is experiencing an opioid overdose; and
- notify parents/guardians of the policy at the beginning of each school year.

Board Policy IGN: *Preventing Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Abuse in Montgomery County Public Schools* was amended in June 2017 to reflect this requirement. Naloxone is a medication that, when administered, reverses the fatal effects of opioids (e.g., heroin) on the body and restores breathing. Each school will be stocked with a twin-pack of Narcan® which is a form on naloxone

in a nasal spray to be used in the event of an emergency. Naloxone affects only opioids and has no effect on an individual who has not taken the drug.

Maryland authorizes trained, designated staff members to administer Narcan®. In the unlikely event that Narcan® is administered to your child, 9-1-1 and you will be called immediately.

If you have additional questions about these Montgomery County Board of Education policies and MCPS regulation, or the use of EpiPens® or Narcan® in schools, please contact me or the Westland school community health nurse at 240-740-5852 (after August 21, 2023).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison L. Serino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Alison L. Serino
Principal

ALS:mth