



University of Colorado
Denver

Campus Administrative Policy

Policy Title: Epinephrine Auto-Injector for Severe Allergy Policy

Policy Number: 3063D

Functional Area: General Administration

Effective:

July 1, 2023

Approved by:

Chancellor Michelle Marks

Applies to:

University of Colorado Denver Campus

Emergency Response

If you are experiencing or witness someone experiencing a severe allergic reaction who requires immediate medical assistance:

Call 911 and/or

Auraria Police Department 303-556-5000

A. Introduction

1. Purpose

Anaphylaxis is a rare but very serious reaction that can affect several areas of the body and may threaten breathing and blood circulation. Food allergy is the most common cause of anaphylaxis, although several other allergens—insect stings, medications, or latex—are other potential triggers. Rarely, anaphylaxis is triggered by exercise. Very rarely, anaphylaxis can occur without an identifiable trigger. Although anyone who has a food allergy can experience anaphylaxis, the foods most likely to cause a severe reaction are peanuts, tree nuts, fish, and shellfish. Epinephrine (adrenaline) is a medication that can reverse the severe symptoms of anaphylaxis. It is given as a “shot” and is available as a self-injector, also known as an epinephrine auto-injector. Epinephrine is a highly effective medication, but it must be

administered promptly during anaphylaxis to be most effective. Delays can result in death in as little as 30 minutes.

Colorado law requires the institutions of higher education to acquire and maintain a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors, permitting any person to retrieve and administer an epinephrine auto-injector to persons perceived to be experiencing an anaphylaxis emergency and to create and maintain a policy concerning the acquirement and stock of epinephrine auto-injectors.

2. Scope

The content of this Policy is applicable to CU Denver locations and its staff, students, and faculty in their interactions with individuals who may have severe allergies on campus. This policy does not cover the acquisition or use of an epinephrine auto-injector by a healthcare provider employed by or acting as an agent of the university nor does this policy cover self-administration of personally prescribed epinephrine auto-injectors by any individual.

B. Policy Statement

1. Safety, health, and wellness for the campus community is vitally important to the university. CU Denver is committed to:
 - a. Increasing the campus community's awareness and access to epinephrine auto-injectors on campus to address any emergency severe allergic reactions that may occur;
 - b. Making individuals aware of the location of epinephrine auto-injectors on campus.
2. All community members or visitors with severe allergies are highly recommended to always carry an epinephrine auto-injector with them, as well as to wear a medical bracelet and/or other identifier.
3. The primary supply of epinephrine auto-injectors on campus will be in the Health Center at Auraria ("HCA"). The campus inventory of epinephrine auto-injectors will be managed by the Health Center at Auraria.

C. Process

1. Locations
 - a. Primary Campus Location for Epinephrine Auto-Injector:
 - The University, through the [Health Center at Auraria \(HCA\)](#) will acquire and stock a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors.
 - Health Center at Auraria - 955 Lawrence Way, Suite 150, Denver, CO 80204. 303-615-9999

b. Additional Acquisitions/Locations of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors:

1. Any additional acquisitions/locations will follow the addendum document: [CU Denver Epinephrine Auto-Injector Standard Operating Procedure](#) and will be reviewed by Public Health Response, Risk Management, and the Health Center at Auraria. The work unit and/or building acquiring the epinephrine auto-injector and materials will be the fiscally responsible party.

2. Emergency Use

Any University community member who renders emergency care or treatment to a person perceived to be experiencing anaphylaxis should, as soon as possible call 911, or Auraria Campus Police 303-556-5000. A person who acts in good faith to render emergency care or treatment shall be immune from liability under Colorado law.

3. Donations

The university will accept a donation of supply of epinephrine auto-injectors that meets standards established by the federal food and drug administration, and to accept gifts, grants, and donations including in-kind donations designated for obtaining a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors.

4. Responsibilities

- a. **The Health Center at Auraria** will be responsible for acquiring and maintaining a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors and store them properly, will monitor expiration dates and will replace as needed.
- b. **CU Denver's Public Health Response** will work with campus partners to fulfill the university's commitment to supporting members of our community with severe allergies. Public Health Response will follow, review, and maintain this policy and adhere to public health regulations.
- c. **Students** with severe allergies should Contact the Health Center at Auraria (303-615-9999) (or their primary care physician) and the Disability Resources and Services (303-315-3510) before arriving on campus, or as soon as possible, to discuss an allergy and anaphylaxis action plan.
- d. **Employees** with severe allergies should contact their primary care physician (or the Health Center at Auraria 303-615-9999) and Human Resources (303-315-2700), to discuss an allergy and anaphylaxis action plan.

e. **Those with severe allergies should consider:**

- Self-identifying allergies to events and food outlets on campus (as not all food operators on campus are managed by CU Denver) and ask questions to food outlet staff and supervisors, before selecting/purchasing food about ingredients and the potential of cross-contamination at vendor locations and at events held by the university;
- Practicing ongoing and constant vigilance in the management of a severe allergy throughout their time at CU Denver;
- Carrying an epinephrine auto-injector at all times;
- Wearing medical identification (e.g. Medic Alert) at all times;
- Telling others with whom they are in regular contact (e.g. colleagues, professors, supervisors etc.) about their allergy, how to recognize symptoms of a reaction, what to do, and where they store their epinephrine auto-injectors.

5. Exceptions

This policy is not intended to cover the availability and self-administration of personal epinephrine auto-injectors. This policy is not intended to cover all situations in which the university employs or uses personnel with specific education, certification, and/or licensure to deliver emergency care. Personnel such as EMTs, EMT-paramedics, registered nurses, other health care professionals (including certified athletic trainers) may have an epinephrine auto-injector that they have been authorized to use by virtue of their specific training or medical protocols and may have other reporting requirements mandated by regulations or statutes. This policy is not intended to cover locations on campus that are not CU Denver property.

D. Definitions

Administer: The direct application of an epinephrine auto-injector to the body of an individual.

Allergy: An allergy is a chronic medical condition involving an abnormal immune system reaction to an ordinarily harmless substance called an allergen.

- **Severe Allergy and Risk of Anaphylaxis:** Allergies to food, insect stings, medication and other substances can trigger a potentially life-threatening anaphylactic reaction. The most common causes are food allergens (e.g. peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish (crustaceans, mollusks), egg, milk, mustard, sesame, soy, wheat) and insect stings (e.g. wasps, honeybees, hornets, yellow jackets).

Anaphylaxis: The most serious type of allergic reaction. Symptoms of anaphylaxis can vary for different people from one reaction to the next. Symptoms generally include two or more of the following body systems: Skin, Respiratory, Gastrointestinal and/or Cardiovascular. However, low blood pressure alone in the absence of other symptoms can also represent anaphylaxis.

- **Skin:** hives, swelling (face, lips, tongue), itching, warmth, redness;
- **Respiratory** (breathing): coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, chest pain or tightness, throat tightness, hoarse voice, nasal congestion or hay fever-like symptoms (runny, itchy nose and watery eyes, sneezing), trouble swallowing;
- **Gastrointestinal** (stomach): nausea, pain or cramps, vomiting, diarrhea;
- **Cardiovascular** (heart): paler than normal skin color/blue color, weak pulse, passing out, dizziness or lightheadedness, shock;
- **Other:** anxiety, sense of doom (the feeling that something bad is about to happen), headache, uterine cramps, metallic taste.

Of the above anaphylaxis symptoms, trouble breathing and a drop in blood pressure are identified as the most dangerous and can lead to death if not immediately treated/if treatment is delayed.

Auto-Injector: A device used for injecting a single dose (measured amount) of a drug into your own or another person's body.

Epinephrine: The drug used to treat anaphylaxis. It is commonly delivered using an auto-injector.

- **Stock Epinephrine:** Term used to describe the availability of undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors.

Notes

1. History:

Initial Policy Effective Date: July 1, 2023

2. Cross References/Appendix:

- Health Center at Auraria website: <https://healthcenter1.com>
- CU Denver Public Health Response website: <https://ucdenver.edu/public-health-response>

- CU Denver Disability Services website: <https://www.ucdenver.edu/offices/disability-resources-and-services>
- CU Denver Human Resources ADA website: <https://www.ucdenver.edu/offices/human-resources/employee-relations-performance/ada-compliance>
- CU Systems Risk Management: <https://www.cu.edu/risk/>
- Senate Bill 23-299, C.R.S. 23-5-149 [Sydney Meegan's Law](#)
- C.R.S. 25-47-107 [Good Samaritan Protections](#)
- C.R.S. 13-21-108 [Persons Rendering Emergency Assistance Exempt from Civil Liability](#)

3. Addendum:

- CU Denver Public Health Response Epinephrine Auto-Injector Standard Operating Procedure: <https://www.ucdenver.edu/docs/default-source/public-health-documents/epinephrine-auto-injector-sop.pdf>