



## CALHOUN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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### Calhoun County School Wellness Program

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In the fall of 2014, the State of Michigan implemented legislature to support the safety of students in the event of an anaphylactic reaction (life-threatening allergic reaction) occurring in the school setting. Michigan's Public Acts 186 and 187 require Michigan School Districts to provide at least two stock epinephrine auto-injectors (Epi-Pens) in each district building. Included in this legislation, is the training of a minimum of two staff members in the recognition of anaphylaxis and the administration of epinephrine.

Anaphylaxis is a rapid, severe allergic response triggered by insect stings, foods, medications, latex materials, exercise, or in rare cases by unknown causes. This is a life-threatening allergic condition requiring immediate treatment. Administering epinephrine to students during a medical emergency may help to insure the student's health and safety at school. Therefore, the Lakeview School District has adopted a policy to provide life-saving epinephrine to students and staff that are in need of such treatment.

The purpose of this legislature is to provide emergency medical treatment for individuals with an unknown allergy. If your student has a known life threatening allergy, parents are still advised to notify the school district of the identified allergy, and provide an epinephrine auto-injector to be kept at the school. Therefore, your School Nurse must be notified of all your child's previously known and/or any newly discovered allergies. Each school year, please continue to indicate this on your child's student registration forms, and plan to meet with your School Nurse to discuss an emergency action plan for your student.

The Calhoun County "School Wellness Program" has taken this initiative one step further with the introduction of a Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT) in each school district building. The purpose of MERT is to provide medical assistance to students and staff in the event of an accident or injury on school property during regular school hours. Each MERT team will consist of 5-7 members certified in First Aid, CPR, and the administration of epinephrine. Currently, each school district is in various stages of MERT training and implementation. However, all school districts participating in the "School Wellness Program" have implemented the required epinephrine legislation.

Please contact your school nurse for further information.

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