ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

I. Statement of Intent

Anaphylaxis is an incidence of severe allergic reaction which can affect almost any part of the body and may include symptoms which are potentially fatal, such as breathing difficulties, drop in blood pressure, or shock. Allergic reactions may be caused by certain foods, medications, insect stings, latex, and other environmental factors.

On occasion Questar III students have identified allergies which could result in anaphylaxis. This Policy seeks to establish procedures and processes which will identify such students, appropriately address means to prevent contact with identified allergens, and authorize treatments in the event of anaphylaxis.

This policy also authorizes the use of epinephrine auto-injector devices pursuant to non-patient specific prescription for emergency treatment of a student or staff member appearing to experience anaphylactic symptoms in a school facility.

II. Management Plans for Students with Severe Allergies

Protecting a student from exposure to offending allergens is the most important way to prevent life-threatening anaphylaxis. The risk of exposure may be reduced when school personnel, medical providers and parents/guardians work together to develop a management plan for a student identified as having severe allergic reactions.

Upon receipt of a student health history, individual education plan, or medical documentation that indicates that a Questar III student is severely allergic to known factors, the teacher and/or Questar III administrator in receipt of such information will notify the Questar III school nurse practitioner, who shall lead staff in the development and implementation of the student’s management plan.

A management plan shall be incorporated into the student’s Individual Health Care Plan, Emergency Care Plan, 504 Plan or Individualized Educational Plan, as the case may be. The management plan shall, to the extent practicable, identify known allergens; identify means of reducing a student’s exposure to known allergens; include appropriate medical orders regarding medications and responses to emergencies including anaphylaxis; identify staff members who need to be notified and/or trained relating to the student’s management plan.
A. The school nurse practitioner shall:

1. Assure that an Individual Health Care Plan (IHP), Emergency Care Plan (ECP), 504 Plan or Individualized Educational Plan (IEP), as the case may be, appropriately indicates the student’s medical condition and identifies appropriate responses to severe allergic reactions. The student’s IHP, ECP, 504 Plan or IEP, shall be provided to building or classroom nurse, who shall be responsible for notifying the student’s classroom teaching staff.

2. Obtain appropriate medical orders regarding the care of the student are obtained, including Standing emergency medical protocols for nursing staff.

3. Consult with the Questar III School Physician, as necessary or appropriate.

4. In conjunction with the Questar III Health and Safety staff, provide necessary precautions and general training for the student’s classroom staff. A record of all trained staff shall be maintained.

5. Provide or assure that appropriately licensed medical personnel provide training to all adults in a supervisory role in the recognition and emergency management of any specific medical condition for specific students.

6. With building and classroom nursing staff, assure that nursing personnel or other appropriate staff at Questar III instructional buildings and classrooms maintain stock supplies of life saving emergency medications as indicated in a student’s medical protocols.

7. Assure that building nursing personnel or other appropriate staff in Questar III instructional buildings maintain stock supplies of life saving emergency medications as allowed by the laws of New York State for use in first time emergencies (e.g. EpiPens). Questar III classrooms located in district buildings will respond to first time emergencies in accordance with the host district’s protocols and policies.

B. The school physician shall:

1. Provide Standing emergency medical protocols for nursing staff.

2. Consult with the School Nurse Practitioner as needed.
C. The School Nurse Practitioner, Questar III nursing staff, and Questar III teachers and other classroom staff shall:

1. Communicate with parents/guardians of students with known severe allergic reactions in order to reduce exposure to allergens and assure that medical protocols are in place in the event of emergencies.

2. Follow specific legal documents executed in accordance with the laws of New York State with medical orders regarding the care of specific students with severe allergic reactions.

3. Assure that appropriate and reasonable building accommodations are in place to the extent possible.

4. Allow self-directed students as assessed by the Questar III health services staff and with prior approval by the medical provider to carry lifesaving medication while at school, provided that duplicate lifesaving medication is also maintained in the school health office in the event the self-directed student does not have medication.

5. Follow protocols and directions regarding management and administration of medications in accordance with a student’s IHP, ECP, 504 Plan, or IEP as the case may be.

D. Questar III administrators shall:

1. Communicate with parents/guardians of students with known severe allergic reactions in order to reduce exposure to allergens and assure that medical protocols are in place in the event of emergencies.

2. Assure that appropriate and reasonable building accommodations are in place to the extent possible.

III. Medical history and other forms

The School Nurse Practitioner, in consultation with the School Physician, shall establish and utilize such medical history forms and other forms relating to medical protocols as necessary or desirable to carry out this policy. The School Nurse Practitioner shall maintain medical documentation in accordance with requirements of law, regulations and generally accepted school medical practices.

IV. Emergency administration of Epinephrine

The School Nurse Practitioner and/or School Physician may issue non-patient-specific prescriptions for epinephrine auto-injector devices as authorized by
Public Health Law. The following Questar III staff may use an epinephrine auto-injector device pursuant to such non-patient specific prescription for emergency treatment of a staff member or student appearing to experience anaphylactic symptoms:

A. Nursing staff operating within the scope of their license;
B. A Questar III employee provided he or she has successfully;
   completed an approved training course in the use of an epinephrine auto-
   injector device; and
C. A Questar III employee who is directed in a specific instance to use an
   epinephrine auto-injector device by a health care practitioner.

Adopted: 7/8/10
Revised: 3/8/18

References: Public Health Law, sections 3000-c and 3000-a
8 NYCRR 136.6