



Illinois State Board of Education


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State Superintendent of Education

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable JB Pritzker, Governor
The Honorable Jim Durkin, House Minority Leader
The Honorable Don Harmon, Senate President
The Honorable Dan McConchie, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Speaker of the House

FROM: Dr. Carmen I. Ayala 
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: September 23, 2021

SUBJECT: The Program and Administration of Undesignated Epinephrine Report, School Year 2020-2021

On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education, which is required under Section 22-30 of the Illinois School Code [105 ILCS 5/22-30] to issue this report, I am pleased to submit "The Program and Administration of Undesignated Epinephrine Report, School Year 2020-21." This report summarizes the characteristics of cases and dosages of undesignated epinephrine administrations reported to the Illinois State Board of Education during the 2020-21 school year.

A summary of the major findings:

- There were 19 public schools across 14 districts and four nonpublic schools that reported 23 administrations of undesignated epinephrine during the 2020-21 school year. City of Chicago SD 299 experienced the greatest number with five instances.
- There were 20 student-reported instances and three staff-reported instances for a total of 23 reported administrations of undesignated epinephrine.
- A previously known diagnosis of a severe allergy was reported in eight of the student reports, none for the staff reports.

This report is transmitted on behalf of the State Superintendent of Education. For additional copies of this report or for more specific information, please contact Amanda Elliott, executive director of Legislative Affairs, at (217) 782-6510 or aelliott@isbe.net.

cc: Secretary of the Senate
Clerk of the House
Legislative Research Unit
State Government Report Center

**The Administration of Undesignated
Epinephrine
School Year 2020-21**

**Illinois State Board of Education
Center for Safe and Healthy Climate
Wellness Department
September 2021**

*Darren Reisberg, Chairman
State Board of Education*

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Foreword

The administration of epinephrine via auto-injector from a stock supply to persons who may or may not have had a previous diagnosis of anaphylaxis to an allergen is permitted in Illinois schools by 105 ILCS 5/22-30. School Code requires a report form to be provided to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) by each Illinois public and nonpublic school that administers undesignated epinephrine. This report must be sent to ISBE within three days of the instance that necessitated use of the undesignated supply of epinephrine. This report is a compilation of data on the frequency and circumstances of administration of undesignated epinephrine during the preceding academic year and the names of districts or schools that have instituted a policy and procedure for the administration of undesignated epinephrine.

Inquiries regarding this report may be directed to Rebecca Doran at rdoran@isbe.net or Theresa Zumba at tzumba@isbe.net in the ISBE Wellness Department. They also can be contacted by calling (217) 782-5270.

Background

Section 22-30 of the Illinois School Code [105 ILCS 5/22-30] mandates that a school, whether public, charter, or nonpublic, must permit the self-administration and self-carry of an epinephrine injector by a pupil, provided that the parents or guardians of the pupil provide to the school written authorization for the self-administration and self-carry of an epinephrine injector; written authorization from the pupil's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse; and a written statement from the pupil's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse containing the name and purpose of the epinephrine injector, the prescribed dosage, and the time or times at which or the special circumstances under which the epinephrine injector is to be administered.

School districts, public schools, charter schools, or nonpublic schools may maintain a supply of undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors in any secure location that is accessible before, during, and after school where an allergic person is most at risk, including, but not limited to, classrooms and lunchrooms.

A school district, public school, charter school, or nonpublic school that maintains a supply of undesignated epinephrine injectors or has an independent contractor providing transportation to students who maintains such a supply must report that information to the State Board of Education upon adoption or change of a policy in a manner as prescribed by the State Board. The way schools notify ISBE of their undesignated epinephrine policy is discussed in the Methodology section on page 2. The report must include the number of undesignated epinephrine injectors in supply.

The State Board of Education shall submit a report to the General Assembly by Oct. 1 of each year identifying the frequency and circumstances of undesignated epinephrine administration during the preceding academic year. The report shall also contain information on which school districts, public schools, charter schools, and nonpublic schools maintain or have independent

contractors providing transportation to students who maintain a supply of undesignated epinephrine injectors.

Methodology

The 2020-21 epinephrine usage data collection was conducted using the “Undesignated Epinephrine Reporting Form” (ISBE 34-20) found at <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/34-20-undesignated-epinephrine-rptg.pdf>. Schools emailed the forms to epinephrine@isbe.net. The first reported use of undesignated epinephrine occurred on Aug. 26, 2020, and the last on July 22, 2021.

The 2020-21 epinephrine policy data collection was conducted using the “Undesignated Epinephrine Policy Form” found <https://forms.office.com/r/yYmNRiHX2m>. ISBE staff reviewed the forms and contacted school staff if additional information was needed.

Limitations

The following limitations in the data collection should be noted:

- The validity of the data reported is subject to the limitations of the aggregate nature.
- Reports not submitted via the email address may not be compiled with the electronic data.
- Data is not collected from schools that are not registered with ISBE.
- Detailed items like triggers may include multiple categories of triggers and may not indicate a case-by-case count.
- The potential trigger for the allergic reaction is not necessarily a medical diagnosis, as information on follow-up medical care was not collected.
- Percentages may not equal 100 for all data tables and figures due to rounding.
- This report does not include administration by school staff or by a student from the student’s own supply of (designated) epinephrine.

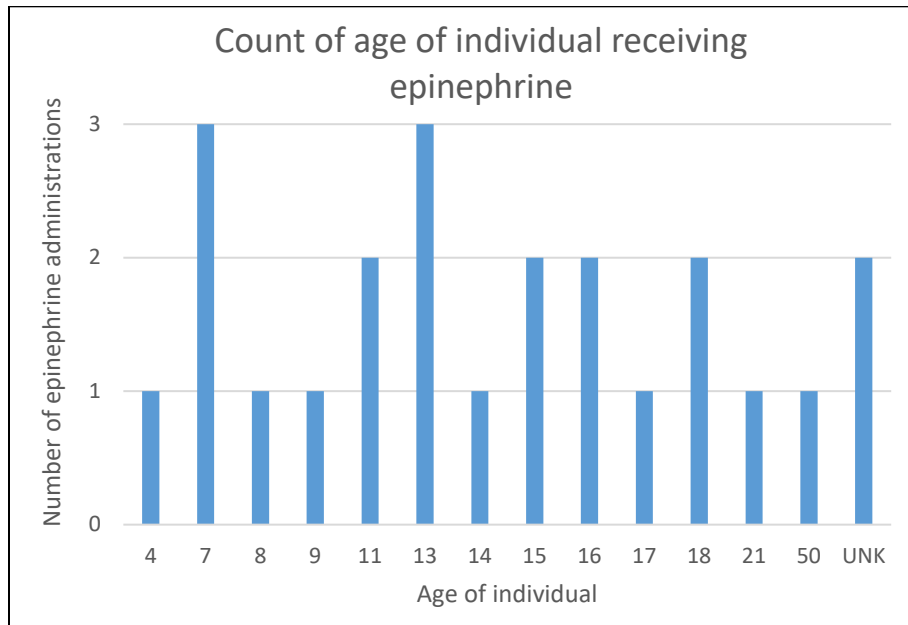
School Year 2020-21 Results

ISBE received reports of 23 instances of administration of undesignated epinephrine during the 2020-21 school year. There were 19 public schools across 14 districts and four nonpublic schools that reported the administrations. City of Chicago SD 299 experienced the greatest number with five instances. A previously known diagnosis of a severe allergy was reported in eight of the student reports, none for the staff reports.

Background and age

There were 23 reported administrations of undesignated epinephrine -- 20 of them (87 percent) reported by students and three (13 percent) -reported by staff. Two staff-reported instances did not list age.

Figure 1.

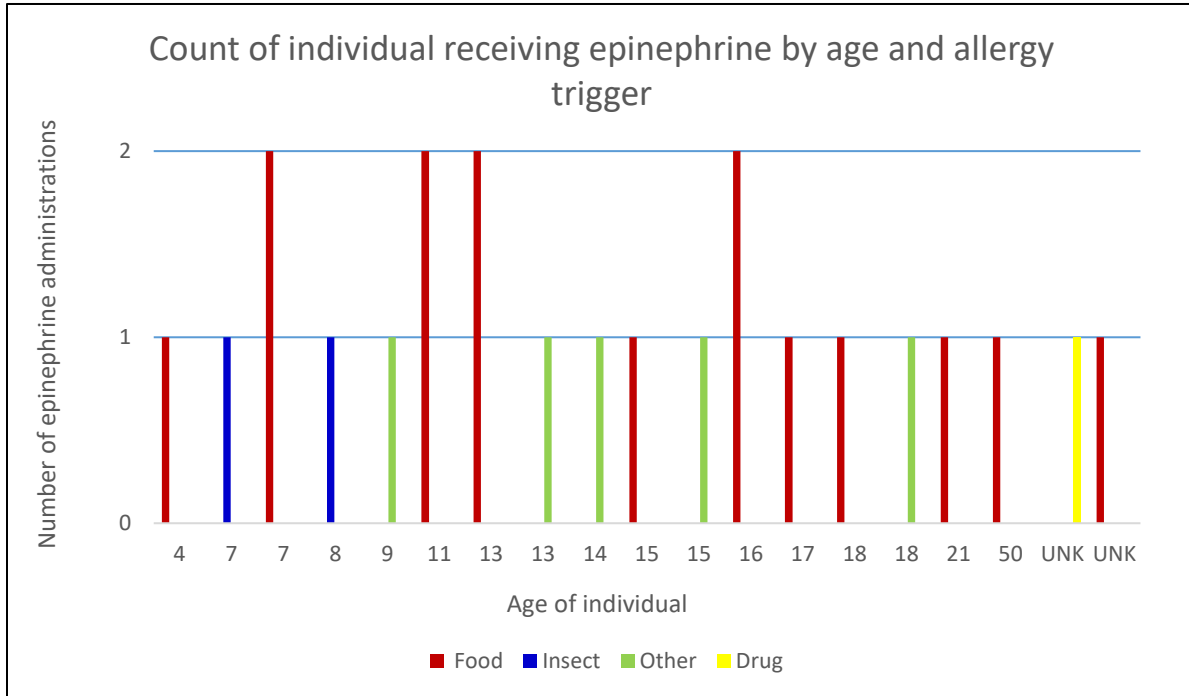


- The figure above shows ages 7 (n=3) and 13 (n=3) had the two highest totals for reported single-dose administration of epinephrine, with three reports for each age.
- Thereafter, ages 11, 15, 16, 18, and UNK reported two single-dose administrations of epinephrine for each age.
- All other ages reported a single-dose administration of epinephrine.

Triggers by category

There are four broad categories of triggers -- food, insect, other, and drug -- listed on the reporting form.

Figure 2.



- Students aged 7, 11, 13, and 16 had two reports each of food-related episodes. Students aged 7 and 8 had one report each of insect-related episodes. Students aged 9, 13, 14, 16, and 18 had one report each of other-related episodes.
- Eight (34.7 percent) of the students had a previously known diagnosis of a severe allergy.
- No staff reports had a previously known diagnosis of a severe allergy.

Food-related triggers

Details on the type of food trigger were given for 13 of the 15 reports citing food-related triggers. Three (13 percent) of the food-triggered instances listed peanuts, tree nuts, or sunflower seed/product. Four (17 percent) of the food-triggered instances listed granola, protein bar, trail mix as the identified food product; however, further dissemination cannot be completed without ingredient lists. Other food identified triggers were tuna fish (n=1), citrus (n=1), peppers (n=1), mac n' cheese (n=1), cannoli (n=1), and rice crispy treat (n=1). Two reports did not identify the food product trigger.

Drug-related triggers

Table 1. Drug-related triggers

COUNT	Trigger (Per report form ISBE 34-20 (8/16) DRUG
1	MODERNA COVID VACCINE

A single report of a drug-related trigger was by a staff member.

Insect-related triggers

There were two reports of insect-related triggers; one identified bee as the trigger, the other report did not specify the type of insect.

Other triggers

Five reports indicated a trigger as “other.” No further comments were provided.

Location of symptoms

The location of symptom development was listed as within a school building in 22 (96 percent) of reports. One report (4 percent) indicated the episode occurred on school grounds.

Time of day for reported cases

Approximately 22 percent (n= 5) of the reports occurred between 6:15 - 10:59 a.m. Thirty percent (n=7) of the reports occurred between 11 a.m. - 12:59 p.m. The highest percentage, 43% (n=10), of the reports occurred between 1 – 3 p.m. One report occurred at 6:30 p.m.

Number of undesignated epinephrine doses administered per report

A single dose of epinephrine was administered in all 23 reports. No reports indicated administration of two or more doses of undesignated epinephrine.

Person administering the epinephrine

Twenty-two instances (96 percent) identified the person administering the epinephrine as a registered nurse. One report (4 percent) identified the person administering the epinephrine as a trained personnel.

Epinephrine policy reports

A school or district that institutes a policy or program offering undesignated epinephrine, revises an existing policy or program, or contracts with a student transportation company that has instituted such a policy and program must notify ISBE. Districts or schools that had neither a program to provide undesignated epinephrine nor a separate contracted student bus transportation company that offered the same did not need to report. Nine districts reported to ISBE of newly adopting an undesignated epinephrine protocol and policy. There were zero reports of districts having independent contractors that provided student transportation and maintained a supply of undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors.

Table 2. Districts/schools reporting undesignated epinephrine administration

District Name & Number	Name of School
Arlington Heights SD 25	Ivy Hill Elem School
Champaign CUSD 4	Jefferson Middle School
City of Chicago SD 299	Wentworth Elem School
City of Chicago SD 299	Hendricks Elem Community Academy
City of Chicago SD 299	Curie Metropolitan High School
City of Chicago SD 299	Amundsen High School
City of Chicago SD 299	Pershing Elem Humanities Magnet
Elmwood Park CUSD 401	Elmwood Elem School
Freeport SD 145	Freeport High School
Glenbard Twp HSD 87	Glenbard North High School
	Harvest Christian Academy
	Academy Sacred Heart/Hardey Prep
	Fenwick High School
	Cornerstone Christian Academy
Paxton-Buckley-Loda CUD 10	Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School
Plainfield SD 202	Plainfield East High School
Plano CUSD 88	Plano High School
SD U-46	Kimball Middle School
St Charles CUSD 303	Richmond Intermediate Sch
Summit Hill SD 161	Dr Julian Rogus School
Township HSD 214	Buffalo Grove High School
Wheeling CCSD 21	Cooper Middle School
Wilmette SD 39	Wilmette Junior High School