



Common Medical Emergencies at School

Not intended as a substitute for Individual Health Plans (IHP) or Prescriber Orders.

Emergency	Definition	Symptoms	Anticipated Action Steps to be completed by Healthcare Professional or Designated School Personnel.
Asthma	Chronic disease of the airways consisting of airway constriction and inflammation. Triggers Allergies, physical activity, weather, infections, vapors.	Wheezing, uncontrollable coughing, chest tightness, shortness of breath, rapid breathing, lips/tongue/nail beds turning blue. These symptoms can progress to a medical emergency quickly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Refer to Individual Student Health Care Plan (IHP), Emergency Action Plan (EAP).Refer to Prescriber's Orders on file.Activate Emergency Response following school policy.
Allergic Reactions/Anaphylaxis	Allergic reaction to an antigen to which the body has become hypersensitive. Causes Foods, medications, insect bites, airborne allergens.	Mild Symptoms: Red, watery eyes, itching, sneezing, runny nose, hives, or rash on one area. Severe Symptoms: Swelling of lips/tongue, difficulty breathing/speaking, wheezing, coughing, throat tightness, hives all over, vomiting/diarrhea. (Medical Emergency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Refer to Individual Student Health Care Plan (IHP), Emergency Action Plan (EAP).Refer to Prescriber's Orders on file.Activate Emergency Response following school policy.
Diabetes and Hypoglycemia	Chronic disease that affects your body's ability to produce or use insulin. Type 1- Pancreas produces little or no insulin. These students are insulin dependent either by injection or insulin pump. Type 2- Body doesn't use insulin properly. Hypoglycemia = Low Blood Sugar Treatment needed ASAP	Hunger, tired, shaky, irritable, pale, sweating, dizziness, nervousness, anxious, unable to speak, rapid, deep breathing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Refer to Individual Student Health Care Plan (IHP), Emergency Action Plan (EAP).Refer to Prescriber's Orders on file.Activate Emergency Response following school policy.Never send a student with suspected low blood sugar anywhere ALONE.
Seizures/Epilepsy	Abnormal electrical discharges in the brain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Episodes of staring with loss of eye contact.Staring with twitching of the arm and leg.Generalized jerking movements of arms and legs.Unusual behavior for that person (Running, aggressiveness, making strange sounds, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Refer to Individual Student Health Care Plan (IHP), Emergency Action Plan (EAP).Refer to Prescriber's Orders on file.Activate Emergency Response following school policy.

More information can be found in the [Emergency and Health Guidelines for Schools.](#)