# Superintendent’s Memo #159-20

[](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/index.shtml)  
**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: July 2, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Epinephrine Accessibility in Schools

The 2020 Virginia General Assembly passed [HB 999 (Bell)](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+HB999&201+sum+HB999) which amends and reenacts § [22.1-274.2 (C)](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+ful+HB999ER&201+ful+HB999ER) of the *Code of Virginia*, to ensure the accessibility of epinephrine at all times by individuals trained to administer this life-saving drug when needed during regular school hours. This legislation directs local school board policies to require that *at least one school nurse, employee of the school board, employee of a local governing body, or employee of a local health department who is authorized by a prescriber and trained in the administration of epinephrine has the means to access at all times during regular school hours any such epinephrine that is stored in a locked or otherwise generally inaccessible container or area.*

Epinephrine is an injectable emergency medication that is given to individuals experiencing life-threatening signs of anaphylaxis or allergic reaction. A delay in administration of this medication by only a few minutes can have serious consequences. Quick access to areas where epinephrine is stored (e.g., rooms, storage units, or drawers) is imperative for those personnel trained in the administration of this medication and the recovery of individuals receiving this life saving medication.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact Tracy White, MA, BSN, RN, School Health Specialist, Virginia Department of Education, by email at [Tracy.White@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Tracy.White@doe.virginia.gov), or by phone at (804) 786-8671, or Joanna Pitts, BSN, NCSN, School Health Nurse Consultant, Virginia Department of Health, by email at [Joanna.Pitts@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Joanna.Pitts@vdh.virginia.gov), or by phone at (804) 864-7929.

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