

Increasing Access to Epinephrine in Idaho Schools

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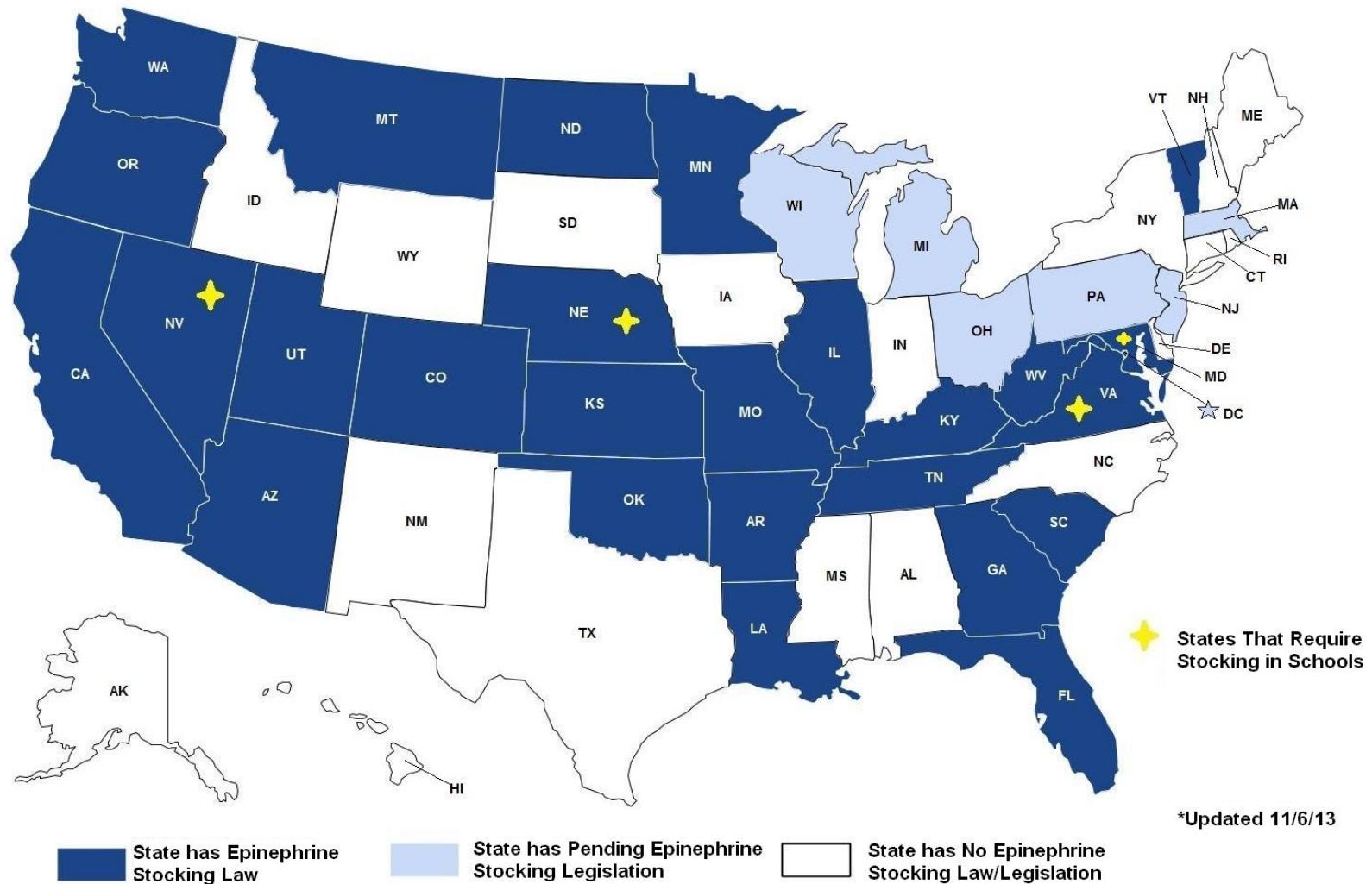
Anaphylaxis

- Anaphylaxis is a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction
- Many substances can trigger anaphylaxis, including but not limited to foods, insect stings and latex
- Epinephrine is the first-line treatment for anaphylaxis
- Anaphylaxis can occur without warning, even in people without previously diagnosed allergies
- Anaphylaxis can progress extremely rapidly, sometimes within minutes
- Epinephrine must be administered as soon as possible to be most effective

Prevalence of Anaphylaxis in Schools

- ❑ The incidence of food allergies is rising, especially in the pediatric population. It currently affects 1 in 13 children, which is roughly two in every classroom
- ❑ Studies conducted in Massachusetts and New York indicate that close to 25% of epinephrine administrations on school grounds were to students or staff that had not been previously identified as being at risk for anaphylaxis, and therefore did not have medicine on hand specifically prescribed for them
- ❑ Student fatalities in Virginia and Illinois highlight the need for improved access to epinephrine in schools

States with Epinephrine Stocking Legislation



Source: Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Idaho's Proposed Legislation

- ❑ Would allow schools to obtain undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors (and would allow participation in free or discount programs offered by manufacturers)
- ❑ Would authorize school nurses and designated, trained non-medical personnel to administer an epinephrine auto-injector in an emergency
- ❑ Would grant Good Samaritan protection to school systems, prescribers, school nurses, and trained personnel when acting in good faith in an emergency
- ❑ Would require the State Board of Education (in consultation with the department of Health and Welfare) to develop guidelines for the management of students with life-threatening allergies

Epinephrine Auto-injectors

- There are currently four epinephrine auto-injectors available:
 - Epi-Pen
 - Auvi-Q
 - Adrenaclick
 - A generic for Adrenaclick
- Properly stored, the shelf life of an auto-injector is generally between 12 and 18 months at time of dispensing
- The EpiPen4Schools program provides free and discounted auto-injectors to schools

Stakeholder Support

Proponents:

- School Nurses Organization of Idaho
- National Association of School Nurses
- Idaho Education Association
- American College of Emergency Physicians, Idaho Chapter
- American Academy of Pediatrics, Idaho Chapter
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Treasure Valley Food Allergy Network
- American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
- Food Allergy Research and Education
- American Academy of Emergency Medicine
- National Association of Elementary School Principals

Effect of the Federal School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act

- Authorizes the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to give funding preferences to states for asthma-treatment grants IF they require their schools to:
 - Maintain an emergency supply of epinephrine
 - Permit trained personnel of the school to administer epinephrine
 - Have a plan in place for ensuring trained personnel are available to administer epinephrine throughout the entire school day