Medical Emergencies on the School Bus

Procedure 222

Reviewed: 10/27/26

Statement

Any medical incident requiring bus driver/monitor intervention will be treated as an emergency, and emergency services will be contacted. Should a bus driver/monitor have occasion to assist a rider in a medical incident, they do so in applying the “in loco parentis” principle and not as a healthcare professional. All bus drivers and monitors are certified in First Aid, CPR, and Epi-Pen administration. Drivers/Monitors are not trained to administer oral medication.

Students with medical conditions must have a Plan of Care on file. Where a Plan of Care for a student is provided to Tri-Board, only the transportation and emergency actions are applicable on the bus. It is the responsibility of the school/school board to alert families when their student’s Plan of Care cannot be accommodated on a school bus. It is the responsibility of the family of any student with a medical condition to recognize the limitations of providing healthcare on a school bus and to determine if other travel arrangements should be made.

Procedure

All medical events occurring on a school bus will be treated as an emergency. In all cases the driver will stop and properly secure the vehicle in the first available safe location and immediately call emergency services or request dispatch (the Operator) to do so. If a monitor is on board, they should call emergency services while the driver secures the vehicle. Whoever calls emergency services should remain on the phone with them, following any directions they may give until professionals arrive.

The bus driver (and monitor, if on board) is responsible for:

- Ensuring all riders are safe;
- Assessing the situation and determining whether to administer First Aid, CPR, or Epi-Pen
- Reviewing the Plan of Care for the individual student, if applicable
    - Responses to Prevalent Medical Conditions:
        1. **Anaphylaxis**
            - Give epinephrine auto-injector (e.g. EpiPen®) at the first sign of a known or suspected anaphylactic reaction.
            - Give a second dose of epinephrine as early as five (5) minutes after the first dose if there is no improvement in symptoms.
        2. **Asthma**
            - Assist student in use of fast-acting reliever inhaler.
            - If symptoms continue, use reliever inhaler every 5-15 minutes until the arrival of emergency services
        3. **Diabetes** (student is unresponsive)
            - Turn student onto side

4. **Epilepsy/ seizure**
    - Track time and duration of seizure
    - Protect the student's head without restricting movement
    - Turn student onto side
- Staying with the student until the arrival of emergency services
- Immediately alerting dispatch of the situation

The Bus Operator is responsible for:

- Ensuring emergency services have been requested and an ambulance dispatched
- Reporting the event to the school and Tri-Board personnel as soon as possible
- Providing a list of students on board at the time of the incident to the school and Tri-Board
- Ensuring an Accident Report is completed and sent to Tri-Board within 48 hours
- Maintaining communication with the driver/monitor

Tri-Board is responsible for:

- Ensuring the school has been notified of the event and a list of students on board has been provided to school administration
- Ensure all reports are properly completed and submitted
- Ensure school board administration is aware of the event, if applicable

The School/School Board is responsible for:

- Notifying families of the event as needed. Tri-Board is not responsible for communicating with families
- Being available by phone during all times where students are being transported on school purpose vehicles