

DATE: Tuesday, March 10, 2020

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Bill 201: *Protection of Students with Life Threatening Allergies Act*

ORIGINATOR: Nancy Petersen, Managing Director Strategic District Supports

REFERENCE: September 24, 2019 Board meeting (Trustee Estabrooks)
[Protection of Students with Life-Threatening Allergies Act.](#)

ISSUE

Given the passage of Bill 201: *Protection of Students with Life Threatening Allergies Act* in the spring of 2019 and the fact that this bill will come into force on January 1, 2020; Trustee Estabrooks requested the following request for information:

How is the District preparing for the introduction of Bill 201 for January 2020?

What are the costs associated with adherence to this bill and what will it cost the District annually?

How will the District communicate to parents, families about this bill and how it may affect them?

BACKGROUND

The Alberta government enacted the *Protection of Students with Life-Threatening Allergies Act* effective January 1, 2020. The Act requires that all schools in Alberta to have a minimum of one EpiPen in the event a student experiences a life threatening anaphylaxis. The Act also requires that all staff working closely with students participate in allergy aware training. The Division has an Administrative Regulation reflecting legal alignment to the provincial legislation and schools take steps to promote allergy awareness and prevent risk of exposure to potential allergens.

CURRENT SITUATION

In preparation for the Act, the Division worked with staff from Alberta Education and senior pharmacists to inform steps towards alignment with the legislation. Based on this work, the following actions have been taken:

- Administrative Regulation [HHCD.AR Prescription and Non-Prescription Medication Management](#) has been revised to reflect expectations around school EpiPens and alignment to the Act.
- Schools have been provided with information around how to obtain their EpiPen(s), as per legal expectations in the Act. The cost of a single EpiPen ranges from \$90 to \$110 depending upon the price charged by the local pharmacy.
- Schools have been provided with allergy aware training materials and all school staff who work closely with students will have completed this training prior to spring break. The training video provided to schools is approximately 30 minutes and has been endorsed by both Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education to support training requirements outlined in the Act.
- Communication materials have been provided to schools to support communication and allergy awareness with families, including a SchoolZone post.

KEY POINTS

- *Protection of Students with Life-Threatening Allergies Act* came into effect January 1, 2020.
- To reflect alignment with this new provincial legislation the Division has revised Administrative Regulation, HHCD.AR Prescription and Non-Prescription Medication Management.
- Division schools received information to support staff training and the obtaining of their required EpiPen(s).

NP:np