



Anaphylaxis Preparedness: Making the Classroom Safe for the 300,000 Canadian Children with Allergies

Teachers, parents and care givers still need broadened awareness of emergent anaphylactic treatment required for school-age children with severe allergies, say pharmacists.

August 20, 2015 – “Understanding how to administer epinephrine in an emergency is just as important as other lifesaving skills like CPR or the Heimlich maneuver,” says London Drugs Pharmacist, Jason Chan-Remillard. “While awareness in schools about allergies has grown in recent years, there is a lag in understanding when it comes to emergent anaphylactic treatment.”

For those students with severe allergies, school can be a dangerous place. Teachers, parents and caregivers must be able to recognize the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and know how to initiate treatment.

“Parents must work with teachers and caregivers at the start of each school year to create an action plan,” says Chan-Remillard.

An action plan includes explaining the child's allergy triggers, what to do in case of reaction, where they have access to epinephrine and how to administer emergent anaphylactic treatment. Anaphylaxis Canada offers a [Back to School Checklist](#) for parents and students to help safeguard their health for the new school year.

“It's especially important for lunchroom personnel to be aware of children's health status. Often times, that requires the parents to speak with them directly about how to administer medication, including epinephrine auto-injectors, in case of emergency,” adds Chan-Remillard.

Two years ago, a new 'talking' epinephrine auto-injector was launched in Canada to help caregivers correctly use the auto-injector. The [Allerject™](#) comes equipped with automated voice instructions (in either English or French) which will guide them step-by-step through the injection process in the event of emergency anaphylaxis.

“Prescriptions are not required for Allerject or [EpiPen](#); however, some insurance plans cover them if the patient has a prescription. It is also important to note that all epinephrine auto-injector expiry dates vary by manufacturer. Back to school is an important time to check dates and [update prescriptions](#).”

Expired medications should not be thrown away as they can pose a threat to the environment. Expired autoinjectors such as EpiPens and Allerjects can be brought to any London Drugs pharmacy for [proper disposal](#).

ABOUT LONDON DRUGS

Founded in 1945, B.C.-based London Drugs has 79 stores in more than 35 major markets throughout British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba including its online store www.londondrugs.com London Drugs offers consumers a range of products from digital cameras and cosmetics to computers and televisions. Renowned for its creative approach to retailing, the company employs more than 7,000 people with pharmacy and health care services being the heart of its business. Committed to innovation and superior customer service, London Drugs has established itself as a reputable and caring company and continues to position itself for future growth and development.

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Local Pharmacists are available for interviews regarding allergies, autoinjectors and to provide general back to school health advice.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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