

Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit  
airson Foghlam agus Sgilean



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
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Hannah Bell  
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Our Reference: 202000053510  
Your Reference: Hannah Bell

16 July 2020

Dear Ms Bell

Thank you for your letter dated 24 June 2020 regarding the arrangements for administering emergency anaphylaxis treatment in schools once they return after the summer holidays, and how this treatment can be administered whilst social distancing guidelines remain in place.

As you will be aware, the Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017 have been in place since 1 October 2017. These regulations allowed all schools within the United Kingdom, including independent schools, to purchase spare adrenaline auto-injectors without the need for a prescription. These Regulations allow schools to purchase and hold spare adrenaline auto-injector devices for use on occasions where a pupil suffers from an allergic reaction at school, but their own prescribed device is either not available or it failed to operate correctly.

Whilst the regulations do not compel schools to hold spare adrenaline auto-injector devices to treat anaphylaxis, the Scottish Government believes there are many advantages for doing so. As your letter correctly states, anaphylaxis is a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction and it always requires an immediate emergency response. The effects of allergic reactions can take hold very quickly, particularly in the case of insect stings, therefore the presence of those spare devices on the school site can potentially save the life of a child or young person.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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In December 2017, the Scottish Government published guidance on supporting children and young people with healthcare needs in schools. This guidance includes information on the arrangements for responding to pupils at risk of anaphylaxis and emergency procedures. The guidance is available from

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-children-young-people-healthcare-needs-schools/pages/8/>.

As you will likely have noted from my statement on Educational Recovery to the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday 23 June, it is now the aim of the Scottish Government to see children return to school on a full-time basis after the summer holidays in August. This aim is still conditional on the COVID-19 virus continuing to be suppressed in Scotland between now and then, with our previous plans for a blended learning model being kept as a contingency measure in the event of there being another increase in infection rates.

Our guidance on plans for the return of schools have been clear that there will be circumstances, in order to provide intimate care and medication, where physical distancing will not be appropriate, and that in some cases, the need for personal and protective equipment will be considered. The Scottish Government is updating the guidance for the re-opening of schools, in support of our aim to return to schools in August and that there will not be a need for physical distancing of pupils. However, that also means that the guidance which I referred to above, on the management of healthcare needs in schools will also be in force, and will again guide those in schools on how to respond appropriately, in these circumstances.

I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely



**JOHN SWINNEY**

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