

April 5, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

RE: Important Notice for Parents – Voluntary EpiPen Recall

On March 31, 2017 *Pfizer Canada Inc.*, the Canadian distributor of *EpiPen*® (epinephrine) auto-injectors, announced a **voluntary recall**, in consultation with *Health Canada*, of two (2) lots of **EpiPen (epinephrine) auto-injectors**.

EpiPen® (epinephrine) auto-injectors are used as an emergency treatment by patients who are at risk and/or have a history of serious allergic reactions (anaphylaxis).

The following products have been voluntarily recalled:

1. One (1) lot of *EpiPen* auto-injector **(0.3 mg epinephrine)**
2. One (1) lot of *EpiPen* auto-injector **(Jr 0.15 mg epinephrine)**

The voluntary recall has been issued due to two (2) reports disclosed (outside of Canada) of failure to activate the device, due to potential supplier defects.

The potential defect could make the device difficult to activate (or failure to activate) in an emergency, that may potentially affect the delivery of the required amount of epinephrine during an anaphylactic reaction.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- 1. Check your child's epinephrine auto-injector(s). Parents should contact their prescribing pharmacy immediately**, to determine if this recall affects the medication that has been prescribed for their child.
- 2. Parents should keep their existing medication until replacements can be secured.** Once you have received your alternative epinephrine auto-injector(s), you can make arrangements to return any *EpiPen*® auto-injectors to your prescribing pharmacy.

To ensure the safety of your child, we ask that this be done as soon as possible. **It is important that your child has two (2) epinephrine auto-injectors** at school, and **at all times**.

Your child's school will ensure that emergency stock EpiPens® that are kept at the school are replaced, if necessary, following the Pharmacist's direction.

IMPORTANT NOTE

In the event that your son or daughter has an allergic reaction before you have been able to obtain a replacement, you should use your *epinephrine* auto-injector, as prescribed by your doctor, and then seek immediate medical attention (call 911). Be sure to tell the emergency personnel that you used an *epinephrine* auto-injector. Your child's school will follow the same procedure.

More information about this recall is available through your doctor, as well as Pfizer Canada's website: <http://www.pfizer.ca/node/7651>

If you have any questions, please contact your school Principal.

Halton Catholic District School Board