Anaphylaxis Locations at School

Why are comprehensive food allergy and anaphylaxis management policies important for all schools?

Why should these policies be implemented and anaphylaxis recognition and rapid response be taught to all staff who interact with students throughout the school day, including the bus drivers or bus matrons, teachers, support staff, cafeteria workers, field trip chaperones, before/after care staff and coaches and activity directors?

According to this research article, Locations of Anaphylactic Events in Schools As Observed in the 2014-2015 EPIPEN4SCHOOLS Survey, of the 12,181 responding schools from across the United States, 2,191 anaphylactic reactions were reported during the 2014-2015 school year.

Most symptoms of anaphylaxis began in these 3 locations:

46.6% occurred in the classroom

19.9% occurred in the cafeteria

9.7% occurred on the playground

The study above also found, “less than half of schools allowed all teachers to administer epinephrine and nearly half did not have a full-time nurse available.” This demonstrates the need for comprehensive food allergy management policies and anaphylaxis recognition and response training for all school staff. Anaphylaxis can happen in multiple locations, throughout the school day.