

# CORIE



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## New Policy for Epi Pen Auto Injectors in Schools

Across the nation, there has been a universal push to make Epi Pens available in schools. One in 13 children under the age of 18 has food allergies. A significant portion of severe allergic reactions that occur at school are among students with no prior allergy diagnosis, according to Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE). In November 2013, President Obama signed into law the School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act which encourages states to adopt laws requiring schools to have a “stock” of epinephrine auto-injectors on hand. West Virginia is now on board as one of thirty states allowing schools to stock this life saving medication for students who might suffer a severe allergic reaction—regardless of whether they have a prescription—to receive the emergency injection. School nurses will be training teachers and school staff in the signs, symptoms and treatments of anaphylactic shock. According to Becky King, a registered nurse who over sees the WV Department of Education’s health programs, “Education is key when it comes to allergies.” She says it is impossible to create an allergy free environment but it is possible to create allergy awareness. Mylan Laboratories are supplying any school participating with 4 free auto-injector pens. Each school will discuss this new procedure with their superintendent and school boards and begin putting these processes in place.

### Watch for Changing Interests

As time passes, your child may lose interest in old favorites, such as soccer. The trick is to help your child continue to be active, even if league play falls by the wayside. Staying active and keeping fit are the goals, so help find a replacement activity or activities that your child enjoys.

## Kids Live Well Program

Did you know that some of our local restaurants belong to a program and agree to promote and serve healthy menu options for children? Each meal has to be 600 calories or less and must include two servings of fruits or vegetables. They promote lean protein, whole grains and low-fat dairy, and they limit unhealthy fats, sugars and sodium. There are 1500 restaurants participating. Some of the local restaurants participating are Burger King, Cracker Barrel, Denny’s, Friendly’s and Outback Steakhouse. Ask about nutritional information when dining. As parents, we teach through example. Healthy choices are available, now we need to make the right choices. Choose low-fat milk or water instead of pop and fruit instead of fries. It’s not easy changing eating habits but we owe it to our children and to ourselves. Learn more about this program by logging on to:  
<http://www.restaurant.org/foodhealthyliving/kidslivewell/about/>



## Reporting Suspected Abuse or Neglect

The question has arisen several times within our schools about who is to report suspected child abuse or neglect. Another big question is how to make such a report. Please note the word **SUSPECTED** used in this article. A person does not need to know for sure if a child is being abused or neglected to make the call. Anyone **MAY** report suspected child abuse or neglect. Under WV law (WV code 49-6A-2) certain persons are required to report:

- medical, dental, mental health professionals
- religious healers
- social services workers
- school teachers and other school personnel
- members of the clergy
- child care or foster care workers
- emergency medical services personnel
- peace officers or law enforcement officials and circuit court judges
- family court judges or magistrates
- Christian Science Practitioners
- Animal Control (Ohio)

Why I should report suspected child abuse or neglect, you may ask yourself. The purpose of required reporting is to identify **suspected** abused and neglected children as soon as possible so that they may be protected from further harm. Child Protective Services cannot act until a report is made.

Without detection, reporting and intervention, abused and neglected children may remain victims for the rest of their lives. These children do not grow up and forget their childhood. They carry physical and emotional scars throughout their lives, often repeating the pattern of abuse and neglect with their own children.

You may wonder if you are protected if you report. WV law provides immunity from civil or criminal liability for persons reporting in good faith (WV Code 49-6A-6).

One of the most important pieces of information is how you report. In West Virginia, you call Child Protective Services of the county office of Department of Health and Human Services where the suspected abuse is occurring. In WV reports can also be made to Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline (1-800-352-6513), 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

In Ohio reports can be made to the county office of Department of Job and Family Services or the hotline (1-855-642-4453)

In Pennsylvania reports can be made to the hotline of 1-800-932-0313 Children and Youth Services. You can give your name when making a report or report anonymously as well.

### AAP Speaks Out

Families may decide to use a retail-based health clinic because they believe it is convenient and less expensive, but according to the American Academy of Pediatrics in February 2014, these clinics do not provide children with the high-quality, regular preventive health care children need. They say that retail-based clinics are an inappropriate source of primary care for children because they fragment children's health care and do not support the medical home. Pediatricians are specifically trained in child health issues. They know each child's health history, and are best equipped to take care of both simple and complicated problems comprehensively within the medical home. While the AAP believes the medical home is the optimal standard of care for pediatric patients, and does not recommend that parents use retail-based health clinics, it is understood that the services of these clinics may be used for acute care outside of the medical home. Parents should consider only using retail-based clinics that have a formal relationship with their child's pediatrician.

