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TO: Massachusetts Public and Non-Public Schools

FROM: Karen Robitaille, Director, MDPH School Health Services

SUBJECT: Medication Administration in Schools and Athletic Trainers

DATE: May 23, 2022

The authority to administer medications in the state of Massachusetts is regulated by the Controlled Substances Act, M.G.L. c. 94C (the "Act"). The Act authorizes certain licensed professionals, in the course of their professional practice, to administer controlled substances in compliance with federal and state law.

Licensed athletic trainers are not independently authorized pursuant to the Controlled Substances Act to administer medications in school settings. Exceptions that would allow an athletic trainer to administer medications include:

- 1) The licensed athletic trainer also holds another license (e.g., physician, nurse, physician assistant) that independently authorizes them to administer medication.
OR
- 2) The school nurse delegates their authority to administer medication, pursuant to 105 CMR 210.000, to the athletic trainer and provides appropriate training.
OR
- 3) The athletic trainer has been trained to administer epinephrine per an individual student's prescription under 105 CMR 210.000.

These rules are broadly applicable to all medication administration in school settings:

- School settings include, but are not limited to, school buildings, athletic fields, school-sponsored events taking place during or outside of school hours, and school-sponsored field trips.
- Medications include all prescription and over-the-counter medications.

Please contact the School Health Unit with any questions: caitlin.pettengill@mass.gov.