

Dear AIO Parent:

It is important for you to be aware of a Maine State law that could affect your child while attending a Maine camp.

The State of Maine has passed a law that affects all campers who need to have readily available (carry or possess outside of the regular supervision of the camp's health staff) and to self-administer emergency medication while at camp. The law establishes procedures to allow such access to emergency medication by those campers who have been diagnosed to be at risk for a potential medical crisis such as asthmatic attacks or allergic reactions. These medications include, but are not limited to, an asthma inhaler or an epinephrine (epi) pen.

To comply with State Law 2496, all Maine camps are required to have a written policy authorizing campers to have readily available and to self-administer such emergency medications where the following conditions are met.

- A. Any camper who self-administers emergency medication must have the prior written approval of the camper's primary health care provider and the camper's parent or guardian;
- B. The camper's parent or guardian must submit written verification to the camp from the camper's primary health care provider confirming that the camper has the knowledge and the skills to safely self-administer the emergency medication in camp;
- C. The camp health staff must evaluate the camper's technique to ensure proper and effective use of the emergency medication in camp; and
- D. The emergency medication must be readily available to the camper.

If your child needs to, and you want to permit your child to have readily available (carry or possess outside of the regular supervision of the camp's health staff) and to self-administer an inhaler, an epi-pen or other emergency medication, you and your child's primary health care provider must complete and return to us the forms provided with this letter. These forms were developed in cooperation with the Maine Youth Camping Association. When your camper arrives at camp our health staff are required to evaluate the camper's self administration technique to ensure proper and effective use.

These forms are not necessary for those campers who do not need to have readily available and to self-administer emergency medications. As always our health staff will provide regular supervision of prescription medications for campers.

We must have these forms on hand while your child is in attendance at the Acadia Institute of Oceanography.

Thank you in advance for helping us comply with this new law and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

PARENT PERMISSION FORM

USE OF SELF-ADMINISTERED EMERGENCY MEDICATION

As the parent or guardian for _____,
(participant name)

during his/her time at Acadia Institute of Oceanography (AIO), the above listed participant is permitted to have readily available (carry or possess outside of the regular supervision of the program's health staff) and self-administer as medically necessary: (Circle all that apply or list other emergency self-medication device)

- a. Asthma Inhaler
- b. Epinephrine Pen
- c. Other (please list) _____

"I have read the State of Maine Law below, and confirm that my child has the knowledge and skills to have readily available and safely self-administer the indicated emergency medication at AIO."

Parent or Guardian signature

Date

Summary of Maine Law on Self-Administration of Emergency Medications

Recreational camps for children: emergency medication. A recreational camp for boys or girls must have a written policy authorizing campers to self-administer emergency medication, including, but not limited to, an asthma inhaler or an epinephrine pen. The written policy must include the following requirements:

- A. A camper who self-administers emergency medication must have the prior written approval of the camper's primary health care provider and the camper's parent or guardian;
- B. The camper's parent or guardian must submit written verification to the camp from the camper's primary health care provider confirming that the camper has the knowledge and the skills to safely self-administer the emergency medication in camp;
- C. The camp health staff must evaluate the camper's technique to ensure proper and effective use of the emergency medication in camp; and
- D. The emergency medication must be readily available to the camper.

The full statute may be viewed at:

<http://janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/22/title22sec2496.html>