

BE FOOD ALLERGY AWARE SIX THAT SAVE LIVES

1 THE SYMPTOMS

Signs of a severe food allergy reaction (called anaphylaxis) are 2 or more of:

- Breathing difficulty, wheezing or coughing
- Vomiting, diarrhea or cramps
- Hives or widespread skin redness
- Swelling of tongue, lips or throat
- Feeling very faint / drop in blood pressure (If only this 1 symptom or with just severe wheezing, it is still anaphylaxis.)



2

**IN ANAPHYLAXIS:
Use the auto-injector right away.
Call 911 and report an emergency.**

Epinephrine is considered a safe drug. Antihistamines are for mild symptoms only, and will not halt anaphylaxis. Err on the side of using the auto-injector.



3

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

In studies of those who have died of anaphylaxis, they did not receive epinephrine, or they got it too late. Prompt use of the shot is vital.

4

GO TO THE HOSPITAL

A person who's had an epinephrine shot must be taken to hospital to ensure the reaction is under control. IF symptoms have not improved in 10 to 15 minutes, a second auto-injection should be given.

5

RECLINING IS BEST

In the ambulance, the person having the reaction should be lying down, with the legs raised (this improves blood flow).

6

DON'T GO IT ALONE

No person should be expected to be fully responsible for self-administering epinephrine. Assistance during anaphylaxis is crucial.

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From Allergicliving.com. Based on information from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and FARE.