

To Whom It May Concern:

In the summer of 2014, we received an Adrenal Insufficiency diagnosis for my son who was going into third grade. That summer was a whirlwind of activity from coming to grips with a difficult diagnosis, to getting medications in place, to learning how to recognize an adrenal crisis and prepare ourselves to have emergency SoluCortef kits everywhere my son would be at all times.

An adrenal crisis is very serious, and SoluCortef is the only way to prevent serious adverse events including shock, organ failure, and death. These can happen in as little as 20-30 minutes. Therefore it is vital for an adult to always be willing, trained, and able to administer it onsite.

An adrenal crisis can be brought on by a variety of things including: concussion, broken bone, unconsciousness, severe vomiting, and others. It is not a stretch to imagine several of these occurring on school grounds.

Before school began, I contacted my son's school principal and part time school nurse. I wanted to provide training to several adults on site. I was informed that no district employee except for a school nurse was allowed to administer the SoluCortef shot. Their back-up plan for when the part time nurse was not on campus was to call 911. Unfortunately, responding EMTs are also not allowed to administer the SoluCortef. I explained that somebody needed to be able to deliver it at all times. The part time nurse suggested I contact the school district.

I wrote a letter to the district explaining all of the above. It became clear to the district that they needed to accommodate my son's disability and have somebody available to deliver the lifesaving SoluCortef. They wrote back to me the next business day indicating they were hiring a full time school nurse for my son. While I am very happy that someone is always available to give my son his emergency shot, I can't help but be aware that having more than one trained person would be even better, and having his classroom teacher, secretary and principal able to give it would be ideal.

Thank you for your time,

Lori Dow

Sammamish, WA