

Emergency EpiPens accessible at Ridge

By Cara Beemiller
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practice using them.

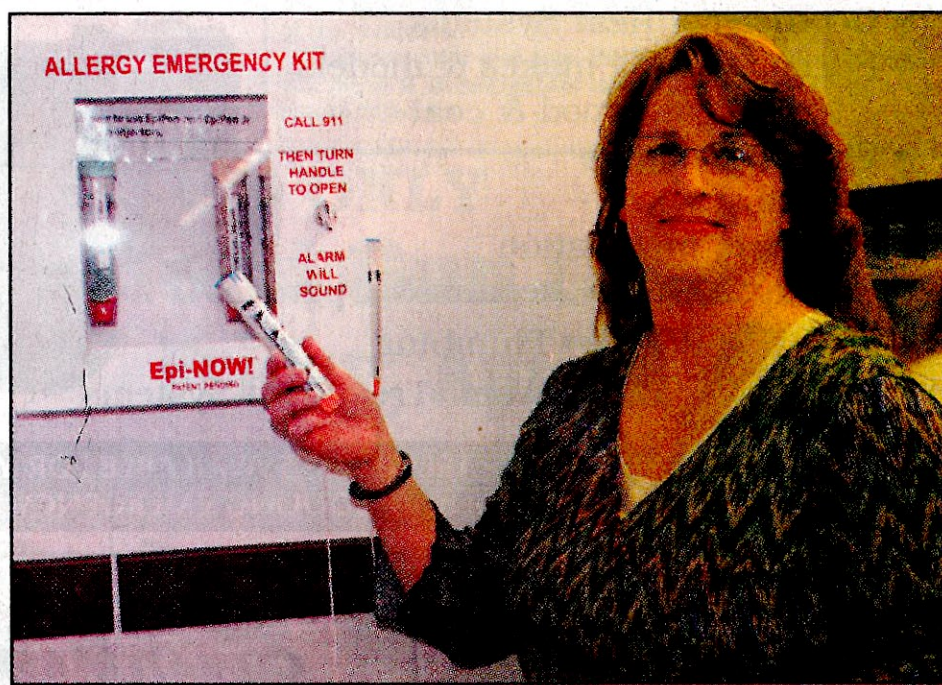
Gordon said although each box cost the school approximately \$300, they were necessary because new state legislation requires them in schools.

Gordon said when she started working for the district more than 10 years ago, there was only one student in the whole district that required an EpiPen. Now, Gordon has 13 students in just the middle school.

"Allergies are exploding," said Gordon, who maintains a profile for each of the 13 students about what their allergies are and what their allergic reactions are like.

Teacher Susan Dupstadt has an EpiPen box located right outside of her classroom and said she thinks the new boxes are a great idea.

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Chestnut Ridge Middle School nurse Sharron Gordon poses with one of the three EpiPen boxes located in the middle school. The boxes, which are unlocked but sound an alarm when opened, contain several EpiPens and are located in areas of the school that are easy to get to.

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"They're a wonderful thing," Dupstadt said. "Students can come into my classroom and practice and I can show students how to use them and keep an eye on the box."

Dupstadt, who teaches journalism to seventh and eighth graders, said she and her students are planning to make an informational video about the EpiPen boxes so students can learn why they are there and how to use them. Dupstadt said the video will be shown through the morning announcements.

"The video will help raise awareness and encourage the students to practice using the EpiPens," said Dupstadt.

In the middle school, EpiPen boxes are mounted on walls in the fifth and sixth grade hallway, the seventh and eighth grade hallway and right outside of the cafeteria. A fourth box located outside of the gymnasium serves as storage for both EpiPens and an emergency defibrillator. Gordon said the other schools have a similar set up with where the boxes are located.

Gym teachers at each school are also equipped with medical boxes that contain EpiPens for when class is held outdoors.



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This box located outside of the Chestnut Ridge Middle School gym serves as storage for both EpiPens and an emergency defibrillator. School nurse Sharon Gordon said this box is important because it serves students during gym class as well as anyone who attends after school sporting events in the gym.