Seizures

Note

If you see the telephone symbol () next to any sign below occurring in the student, call for help (EMS/9-1-1, school nurse, first aid-trained staff).

Look for

- Absent breathing after seizure stops
- Unconsciousness after seizure stops
- Is injured during the seizure, has no history of seizure, or seizure continues for more than 5 minutes
- Cannot get the student to respond; student not able to follow directions or think clearly after seizure stops
- Eyes moving upwards/to side in rapid or "rolling" movements
- Upper body, arms turning in jerking or exaggerated stretching motion
- Pale or bluish skin
- Sudden crying out, scream, fall
- Bowel, bladder incontinence
- Blank stare, seems dazed, unable to respond to questions/directions
- Random actions (e.g., lip chewing or smacking, picking at clothing, mumbling, wandering, hand wringing, or disrobing)

Listen for statements about

- "I'm going to have a seizure."
- Pain in head, feeling of numbness, tingling, or prickling
- Report of recent head injury

Seizure information is continued on the next page

Seizures (continued)

Action

- 1. **DO NOT**:
- Restrain student.
- Stop purposeless behavior.
- Put anything into student's mouth.
- 2. **DO**:

For generalized seizure (with convulsions):

- Protect the student
- Remove objects nearby that could cause injury
- Allow the seizure to run its course
- Remove eyeglasses
- 3. Loosen tight clothing at neck (as possible). Time seizure and direct others to clear away, as possible, harmful objects.
- 4. After seizure, assist student to change clothing and rest, as needed.
- 5. Any student experiencing a seizure while swimming must be examined by a medical provider.
- 6. Call EMS for any of the following:
 - It is the student's first seizure.
 - Seizure lasts longer than 5 minutes with no signs of slowing down.
 - Student experiences absent breathing after seizure stops.
 - Student has consecutive seizures.
 - Seizure follows a head injury.
- 7. If absent breathing, start CPR (p. 37) if you are trained.