

Anaphylaxis Policy



HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Emerson School on 03 9791 8900 or emerson.sch@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

To explain to Emerson School parents, carers, staff and students the processes and procedures in place to support students diagnosed as being at risk of suffering from anaphylaxis. This policy also ensures that Emerson School is compliant with Ministerial Order 706 and the Department's guidelines for anaphylaxis management.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- all staff, including casual relief staff and volunteers
- all students who have been diagnosed with anaphylaxis, or who may require emergency treatment for an anaphylactic reaction, and their parents and carers.

POLICY

1. School Statement

Emerson School will fully comply with Ministerial Order 706 and the associated guidelines published by the Department of Education.

2. Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that occurs after exposure to an allergen. The most common allergens for school-aged children are nuts, eggs, cow's milk, fish, shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication.

Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of a mild to moderate allergic reaction can include:

- swelling of the lips, face and eyes
- hives or welts
- tingling in the mouth.

Signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, a severe allergic reaction, can include:

- difficult/noisy breathing
- swelling of tongue
- difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice
- wheeze or persistent cough
- persistent dizziness or collapse
- student appears pale or floppy

- abdominal pain and/or vomiting.

Symptoms usually develop within ten minutes and up to two hours after exposure to an allergen, but can appear within a few minutes.

Treatment

Adrenaline given as an injection into the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

Individuals diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis are prescribed an adrenaline autoinjector for use in an emergency. These adrenaline autoinjectors are designed so that anyone can use them in an emergency.

3. Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans

All students at Emerson School who are diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of suffering from an anaphylactic reaction must have an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan. When notified of an anaphylaxis diagnosis, the Principal of Emerson School is responsible for developing a plan in consultation with the student's parents/carers.

Where necessary, an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be in place as soon as practicable after a student enrolls at Emerson School and where possible, before the student's first day.

Parents and carers must:

- obtain an ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis from the student's medical practitioner and provide a copy to the school as soon as practicable
- immediately inform the school in writing if there is a relevant change in the student's medical condition and obtain an updated ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis
- provide an up-to-date photo of the student for the ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis when that Plan is provided to the school and each time it is reviewed
- provide the school with a current adrenaline autoinjector for the student that has not expired
- participate in annual reviews of the student's Plan.

Each student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan must include:

- information about the student's medical condition that relates to allergies and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, including the type of allergies the student has
- information about the signs or symptoms the student might exhibit in the event of an allergic reaction based on a written diagnosis from a medical practitioner
- strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of school staff, including in the school yard, at camps and excursions, or at special events conducted, organised or attended by the school
- the name of the person(s) responsible for implementing the risk minimisation strategies, which have been identified in the Plan
- information about where the student's medication will be stored
- the student's emergency contact details
- an up-to-date ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis completed by the student's medical practitioner.

Review and updates to Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans

A student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis in consultation with the student's parents/carers. The plan will also be reviewed and, where necessary, updated in the following circumstances:

- as soon as practicable after the student has an anaphylactic reaction at school

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- if the student's medical condition, insofar as it relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, changes
when the student is participating in an off-site activity, including camps and excursions, or at special events including fetes and concerts.

Our school may also consider updating a student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan if there is an identified and significant increase in the student's potential risk of exposure to allergens at school.

4. Location of plans and adrenaline autoinjectors

A copy of each student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be stored with their ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis in the administration office at each campus and on Compass. Whilst some students keep their adrenaline autoinjector on their person, medication for those that do not will be stored and labelled with their name with their classroom teacher, together with adrenaline autoinjectors for general use located in the administration offices and section leaders' offices.

5. Risk Minimisation Strategies

To reduce the risk of a student suffering from an anaphylactic reaction at Example School, we have put in place the following strategies:

- staff and students are regularly reminded to wash their hands after eating;
- garbage bins at school are to remain covered with lids to reduce the risk of attracting insects.
- year groups will be informed of allergens that must be avoided in advance of class parties, events or birthdays.
- student's personal EpiPen to be taken on all school excursions/camps etc.
- requiring parent to notify school and provide an updated Anaphylaxis management plan annually (or when pen expires) and/or if medical condition changes.
- student's personal EpiPen to be taken on all school excursions/camps etc.
- spare EpiPens are part of the emergency evacuation kit/s.
- ensuring staff are provided with regular professional development that incorporates theoretical and practical components on the identification and response to anaphylaxis and the proper use of an EpiPen in line with current practice and Department policy.
- provide follow up PD and/or briefing in response to specific anaphylaxis incident.
- ensuring that the class CRT (Casual Relief Teacher) folder incorporates relevant student information of the class cohort.
- not allowing food sharing, and restricting food to that approved by parents.
- keeping the lawns well mown, ensuring children always wear shoes, and not allowing drink cans at school.
- The school will not ban certain types of foods (e.g. nuts) as it is not practicable to do so and is not a strategy recommended by the Department of Education or the Royal Children's Hospital. However, the school will request that parents do not send those items to school if possible; that the Home Economics classes eliminate or reduce the likelihood of such allergens, and the school will reinforce the rules about not sharing and not eating foods provided from home.

6. Adrenaline autoinjectors for general use

Emerson School will maintain a supply of adrenaline autoinjector(s) for general use, as a back-up to those provided by parents and carers for specific students, and for students who may suffer from a first-time reaction at school.

Adrenaline autoinjectors for general use will be stored at the administration office on main campus & administration and coordinators offices on Middle Campus.

The principal is responsible for arranging the purchase of adrenaline autoinjectors for general use, and will consider:

- the number of students enrolled at Emerson School at risk of anaphylaxis
- the accessibility of adrenaline autoinjectors supplied by parents
the availability of a sufficient supply of autoinjectors for general use in different locations at the school, as well as at camps, excursions and events
- the limited life span of adrenaline autoinjectors, and the need for general use adrenaline autoinjectors to be replaced when used or prior to expiry
- the weight of the students at risk of anaphylaxis to determine the correct dosage of adrenaline autoinjector/s to purchase.

7. Emergency Response

In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, the emergency response procedures in this policy must be followed, together with the school's general first aid procedures, emergency response procedures and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan.

A complete and up-to-date list of students identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis is maintained by the administration staff at each campus and stored at the staffroom and sickbay. For camps, excursions and special events, a designated staff member will be responsible for maintaining a list of students at risk of anaphylaxis attending the special event, together with their Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans and adrenaline autoinjectors, where appropriate.

If a student experiences an anaphylactic reaction at school or during a school activity, school staff must:

Step	Action
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lay the person flat • Do not allow them to stand or walk • If breathing is difficult, allow them to sit • Be calm and reassuring • Do not leave them alone • Seek assistance from another staff member or reliable student to locate the student's adrenaline autoinjector or the school's general use autoinjector, and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan, stored for the main campus in the staffroom or with their classroom teacher and on the middle campus with their classroom teacher. If the student's plan is not immediately available, or they appear to be experiencing a first-time reaction, follow steps 2 to 5

2	<p>Administer an Adrenaline autoinjector or Adrenaline autoinjector Jr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove from plastic container• Form a fist around the Adrenaline autoinjector and pull off the blue safety release (cap)• Place orange end against the student's outer mid-thigh (with or without clothing)• Push down hard until a click is heard or felt and hold in place for 3 seconds• Remove Adrenaline autoinjector• Note the time the Adrenaline autoinjector is administered• Retain the used Adrenaline autoinjector to be handed to ambulance paramedics along with the time of administration <p>OR</p> <p>Administer an Anapen® 500, Anapen® 300, or Anapen® Jr.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pull off the black needle shield• Pull off grey safety cap (from the red button)• Place needle end firmly against the student's outer mid-thigh at 90 degrees (with or without clothing) • Press red button so it clicks and hold for 3 seconds• Remove Anapen®• Note the time the Anapen is administered• Retain the used Anapen to be handed to ambulance paramedics along with the time of administration
3	Call an ambulance (000)

4	If there is no improvement or severe symptoms progress (as described in the ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis), further adrenaline doses may be administered every five minutes, if other adrenaline autoinjectors are available.
5	Contact the student's emergency contacts.

If a student appears to be having a severe allergic reaction, but has not been previously diagnosed with an allergy or being at risk of anaphylaxis, school staff should follow steps 2 to 5 as above.

Schools can use either the EpiPen® and Anapen® on any student suspected to be experiencing an anaphylactic reaction, regardless of the device prescribed in their ASCIA Action Plan.

Where possible, schools should consider using the correct dose of adrenaline autoinjector depending on the weight of the student. However, in an emergency if there is no other option available, any device should be administered to the student.

8. Staff training

The Principal will ensure that the following school staff are appropriately trained in anaphylaxis management:

- School staff who conduct classes attended by students who are at risk of anaphylaxis
- Any other member of school staff as required by the Principal based on a risk assessment.

Staff who are required to undertake training must have completed:

- an approved face-to-face anaphylaxis management training course in the last three years, or
- an approved online anaphylaxis management training course in the last two years.

Emerson School uses the following training course: Online training — *ASCIA Anaphylaxis e-training for Victorian Schools* with Anaphylaxis Supervisors completing *Course in Verifying the Correct Use of Adrenaline Injector Devices 22579VIC*.

Staff are also required to attend a briefing on anaphylaxis management and this policy at least twice per year (with the first briefing to be held at the beginning of the school year), facilitated by a staff member who has successfully completed an anaphylaxis management course within the last 2 years including the leadership team. Each briefing will address:

- this policy
- the causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis
- the identities of students with a medical condition that relates to allergies and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, and where their medication is located
- how to use an adrenaline autoinjector, including hands on practice with a trainer adrenaline autoinjector
- the school's general first aid and emergency response procedures
- the location of, and access to, adrenaline autoinjectors that have been provided by parents or purchased by the school for general use.

When a new student enrolls at Emerson School who is at risk of anaphylaxis, the Principal will develop an interim plan in consultation with the student's parents and ensure that appropriate staff are trained and briefed as soon as possible.

A record of staff training courses and briefings will be maintained via Emerson School's professional development information register.

The Principal will ensure that while students at risk of anaphylaxis are under the care or supervision of the school outside of normal class activities, including in the school yard, at camps and excursions, or at special event days, there is a sufficient number of school staff present who have been trained in anaphylaxis management.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be available on Emerson School's website so that parents and other members of the school community can easily access information about Emerson School's anaphylaxis management procedures. The parents and carers of students who are enrolled at Emerson School and are identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis will also be provided with a copy of this policy.

The principal is responsible for ensuring that all relevant staff, including casual relief staff, canteen staff and volunteers are aware of this policy and Emerson School's procedures for anaphylaxis management. Casual relief staff and volunteers who are responsible for the care and/or supervision of students who are identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis will also receive a verbal briefing on this policy, their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction and where required, the identity of students at risk.

The principal is also responsible for ensuring relevant staff are trained and briefed in anaphylaxis management, consistent with the Department's [Anaphylaxis Guidelines](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the [Anaphylaxis](#) policy on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL) and the following resources:

- [Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia](#)
- ASCIA Guidelines: [Schooling and childcare](#)
- Royal Children's Hospital: [Allergy and immunology](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	1 st November 2024
Approved by	John Mooney - Principal
Next scheduled review date	30 th October 2025

The principal will complete the Department's Annual Risk Management Checklist for anaphylaxis management to assist with the evaluation and review of this policy and the support provided to students at risk of anaphylaxis.