

# ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

## PURPOSE

To explain to Eastwood Primary 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 Eastwood Primary 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

### School Statement

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

### 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 auto injector for use in an emergency. These adrenaline auto injectors are designed so that anyone can use them in an emergency.

#### Individual ASCIA Action Plans:

All students at Eastwood Primary School who are diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of suffering from an anaphylactic reaction must have an Individual ASCIA Action Plan. When notified of an anaphylaxis diagnosis, the principal of Eastwood Primary School is responsible for ensuring that an ASCIA Action Plan is in place.

Where necessary, an Individual ASCIA Action Plan will be in place as soon as practicable after a student enrolls at Eastwood Primary 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 auto injector for the student that has not expired;
- where necessary, 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
- information about where the student's medication will be stored
- the student's emergency contact details

#### *Review and updates to Individual Anaphylaxis Plans*

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

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

#### Location of plans and adrenaline auto injectors

A copy of each student's ASCIA Action Plan will be kept in the following areas:



- With the students individual epi pen, clearly labelled with the students name and photo in the sick bay cupboard.
- On the wall in sick bay
- In the office
- In the whole school staff room
- In the class staffroom

### Risk Minimisation Strategies

- All staff, including specialists, will complete anaphylaxis training in accordance with Departmental guidelines.
- All relief staff will be provided with a copy of the Anaphylaxis Action Plan for students in the classes they are working.
- Yard duty folders will have copies of all student ASCIA Action Plans
- ASCIA Action Plans will be displayed in the staffroom, first aid room, main office and class staffrooms
- TheirCare Before and After School Care Program will publish and maintain their own management plans
- Prior to all class parties, excursions, camps and sports days the ASCIA Action Plans will be checked by all staff and Epi pens will be on hand.

### Adrenaline autoinjectors for general use

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

Adrenaline auto injectors for general use will be stored in sick bay and labelled “general use”.

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

- the number of students enrolled at Eastwood Primary School at risk of anaphylaxis
- the accessibility of adrenaline auto injectors supplied by parents
- the availability of a sufficient supply of auto injectors for general use in different locations at the school, as well as at camps, excursions and events
- the limited life span of adrenaline auto injectors, and the need for general use adrenaline auto injectors to be replaced when used or prior to expiry.

### 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 ASCIA Action Plan.

A complete and up-to-date list of students identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis is maintained by the first aid officer and stored in sick bay. 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 ASCIA Action Plans and adrenaline auto injectors, 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"> <li>• Lay the person flat</li> <li>• Do not allow them to stand or walk</li> <li>• If breathing is difficult, allow them to sit</li> <li>• Be calm and reassuring</li> <li>• Do not leave them alone</li> <li>• Seek assistance from another staff member or reliable student to locate the student's adrenaline auto injector or the school's general use auto injector, and the student's Individual ASCIA Action Plan, stored in sickbay.</li> <li>• If the student's plan is not immediately available, or they appear to be experiencing a first time reaction, follow steps 2 to 5</li> </ul> |
| 2.   | Administer an EpiPen or EpiPen Jr (if the student is under 20kg) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove from plastic container</li> <li>• Form a fist around the EpiPen and pull off the blue safety release (cap)</li> <li>• Place orange end against the student's outer mid-thigh (with or without clothing)</li> <li>• Push down hard until a click is heard or felt and hold in place for 3 seconds</li> <li>• Remove EpiPen</li> <li>• Note the time the EpiPen is administered</li> <li>• Retain the used EpiPen to be handed to ambulance paramedics along with the time of administration</li> </ul>                 |
| 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 – 5 as above.

[Note: If in doubt, it is better to use an adrenaline auto injector than not use it, even if in hindsight the reaction is not anaphylaxis. Under-treatment of anaphylaxis is more harmful and potentially life threatening than over-treatment of a mild to moderate allergic reaction. Refer to page 41 of the [Anaphylaxis Guidelines](#)].

### Communication Plan

This policy will be available on Eastwood Primary School's website so that parents and other members of the school community can easily access information about Eastwood Primary School's anaphylaxis management procedures. The parents and carers of students who are enrolled at Eastwood Primary 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 and volunteers are aware of this policy and Eastwood Primary 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.

## Staff Training

Staff at Eastwood Primary School will receive appropriate training in anaphylaxis management, consistent with the Department's *Anaphylaxis Guidelines*.

Staff who are responsible for conducting classes that students who are at risk of anaphylaxis attend, and any further staff that the principal identifies, 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.

Eastwood Primary School uses the following training course: ASCIA eTraining course (with 22303VIC, or 22300VIC or 10313NAT).

Staff are also required to attend a briefing on anaphylaxis management and this policy at least twice per year, facilitated by a staff member who has successfully completed an anaphylaxis management course within the last 2 years including School Anaphylaxis Supervisor. 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 auto injector, including hands on practice with a trainer adrenaline auto injector
- the school's general first aid and emergency response procedures
- the location of, and access to, adrenaline auto injectors that have been provided by parents or purchased by the school for general use.

When a new student enrolls at Eastwood Primary 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.

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Policy and Advisory Library:
  - [Anaphylaxis](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/anaphylaxis/policy) <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/anaphylaxis/policy>
- Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia: [Risk minimisation strategies](https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/Schools/teachers/health/riskminimisation.pdf)  
<https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/Schools/teachers/health/riskminimisation.pdf>
- ASCIA Guidelines: [Schooling and childcare](https://allergyfacts.org.au/allergy-management/schooling-childcare)  
<https://allergyfacts.org.au/allergy-management/schooling-childcare>
- Royal Children's Hospital: [Allergy and immunology](https://www.rch.org.au/allergy/about_us/Allergy_and_Immunology/)  
[https://www.rch.org.au/allergy/about\\_us/Allergy\\_and\\_Immunology/](https://www.rch.org.au/allergy/about_us/Allergy_and_Immunology/)

## REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

This policy was last updated in March 2021 and is scheduled for review in 2022.

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.

