

Anaphylaxis Management Policy

Purpose:

To fully comply with Ministerial Order 706 and the associated Guidelines published in the Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority (VRQA) Minimum Standards and Requirements for School Registration To enable the management of anaphylaxis including staff training and the identification and monitoring of students who have pre-existing Anaphylaxis

Scope:

Principal, school staff (including casual relief staff), volunteers and parents of students.

Implemented by:

Designated First Aid Officer (School Principal) and Mentors

Approved by:

VHS Board

Communicated via:

School website, staff induction, staff handbook, annual anaphylaxis training, staff meetings, school bus, enrolment agreement

Reviewed:

Annually, after an incident, as legislative changes arise, or if improvements are identified

Overview

The Anaphylaxis Management Policy covers the guidelines and management procedures that are implemented to identify and monitor students with a specific diagnosis of '**at risk of anaphylaxis**'.

Students **at risk** are those students with a diagnosed medical condition relating to allergies and who have the potential for an anaphylactic reaction. An assessment as to whether a student is at risk should be made by a medical practitioner.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the First Aid Policy, which provides guidelines and management procedures regarding the application of first aid.










If an anaphylactic event occurs as part of a larger emergency staff should refer to the Emergency Management Plan.

Depending on the circumstances of the anaphylactic event, the Principal should determine if the Critical Incident Plan should be implemented.

Definition

Anaphylaxis is a potentially life threatening, severe allergic reaction and should always be treated as a medical emergency. Anaphylaxis occurs after exposure to an allergen (usually to foods, insects or medicines), to which a person is allergic. Not all people with allergies are at risk of anaphylaxis.

Symptoms of anaphylaxis are potentially life threatening and include any one of the following:







-  Difficult/noisy breathing
-  Swelling of tongue
-  Swelling/tightness in throat
-  Difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice
-  Wheeze or persistent cough
-  Persistent dizziness and/or collapse
-  Pale and floppy (in young children)
-  Red rash around mouth
-  Vomiting

Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans

The Principal will ensure that an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan is developed, in consultation with the student's Parents, for any student who has been diagnosed by a Medical Practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis.





The Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls, and where possible before their first day of school.

The Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will set out the following:






-  information about the student's medical condition that relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, including the type of allergy/allergies the student has (based on a written diagnosis from a Medical Practitioner);
-  strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to known and notified allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of School Staff, for in-school and out-of-school settings 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 plan and strategies;
-  information on where the student's medication will be stored;
-  the student's emergency contact details; and
-  an ASCIA (Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology & Allergy) Action Plan based on the prescribed Adrenaline Autoinjector (ie. EpiPen or AnaPen).

School Staff will then implement and monitor the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan.

The student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's Parents in all of the following circumstances:

-  annually;
-  if the student's medical condition, insofar as it relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, changes;
-  as soon as practicable after the student has an anaphylactic reaction at School; and
-  when the student is to participate in an off-site activity, such as camps and excursions, or at special events conducted, organised or attended by the School (e.g. camps, Out 'n' Abouts).



It is the responsibility of the Parents to:

-  provide the ASCIA Action Plan;
-  inform the School in writing immediately if their child's medical condition, insofar as it relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, changes and if relevant, provide an updated ASCIA Action Plan;
-  provide an up-to-date photo for the ASCIA Action Plan when that Plan is provided to the School and when it is reviewed;
-  provide the School with an Adrenaline Autoinjector for their child that matches the ASCIA Action Plan, that is current and not expired.
-  Participate in an annual review of the Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan.





Prevention Strategies



VHS will put into place the strategies below to minimise the risk of an anaphylactic reaction by a student that has a diagnosed allergy.

General




-  The school will have a Communication Plan in place to inform, school staff (including casual relief staff), volunteers, and parents of students who are at risk of **anaphylaxis** and of their role in responding to an **anaphylactic** reaction experienced by a student in their care.
-  Discuss Anaphylaxis with students.

Indoors

-  Keep a copy of the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan in the school's first aid area
-  Use non-food treats
-  Never give food from outside sources or treats from other children in the class to a student with anaphylaxis
-  Never serve products with 'may contain...' labels to students with an allergy to that item
Be aware of hidden allergens in food and other substances used in cooking, science and art classes





-  The Principal is responsible for advising relief teachers, specialist teachers and volunteers of any student with an anaphylactic allergy and the action plan that is in place should an anaphylactic reaction occur.
-  No sharing of wind instruments (eg. recorders).

Outdoors

-  A staff member who has been trained in the administration of the Adrenaline Autoinjector will be available to respond to an outdoor anaphylactic reaction, at all times
-  The Adrenaline Autoinjector will be kept in a location that is known by all staff and easily accessible from the outdoor play areas
-  All staff must be able to identify, by face, those students at risk of anaphylaxis

Special Events and Out-of-School Settings

The School Principal is responsible for ensuring that a plan to minimise the risk of and manage any exposure to allergens is developed to ensure adequate supervision of students at risk of anaphylaxis during school activities outside those normally conducted at school. This will involve speaking with parents to determine a plan to minimise the risk of anaphylaxis while traveling to and from school by bus, and during excursions and camps, which may include some or all of the following:


-  A sufficient number of staff members who have been trained in the administration of the Adrenaline Autoinjector will accompany the group at all times and carry with him/her the student's ASCIA Action Plan and Autoinjector
-  Ensuring that sufficient numbers of trained staff are supervising student(s) at risk of anaphylaxis for the activity.
-  A risk assessment will be undertaken of the venue and possible exposure to the allergen
-  An appropriate food menu will be arranged, or meals will be provided by the parents








School Management

All processes contained in this policy will be carried out in a manner consistent with those contained in the School's First Aid Policy.

The Principal will ensure that an up-to-date list of students at risk of anaphylaxis will be maintained at all times and that a Communication Plan is developed to provide information to all school staff (include casual relief staff), volunteers, students and parents about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy.

The following procedures are established and known by all staff in relation to students who may experience an anaphylactic reaction to an allergen:

-  Each student will have an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan, including an up-to-date photo and ASCIA Action Plan, developed in conjunction with parents and on the basis of a written diagnosis from a medical practitioner (this management plan will be reviewed annually, or after an anaphylactic response)

-  All staff members will be able to identify, by face, any student who has an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan
-  All staff will be briefed upon enrolment and thereafter, twice-annually, regarding the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan, the prevention strategies that it contains, and the location of the student's plan and student's Adrenaline Autoinjector (and the school's general use Adrenaline Autoinjectors). Staff will also receive training in how to recognise and respond to an anaphylactic reaction, and how to administer an Adrenaline Autoinjector.
-  Administration will be responsible for monitoring the expiry date of the Adrenaline Autoinjectors supplied by the family and any additional Adrenaline Autoinjectors supplied by the school
-  The Principal will ensure sufficient staff maintain current anaphylaxis management training in accordance with Ministerial Order 706, in the last two years
-  The School Principal will ensure that staff who work with students who have an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will, as a minimum, have completed an on-line anaphylaxis management training course (ASCIA e-training for Victorian schools), in the two years prior, being verified by staff that are suitably qualified.
-  All staff will know their responsibilities in relation to risk minimisation for class activities, excursions and camps
-  All occurrences of an allergic reaction which require the administration of first aid, including use of an Adrenaline Autoinjector will be recorded as a First Aid Incident in the School's student management system.

Emergency Response

Responding to an Incident

In the event of an anaphylaxis emergency staff must follow:

- the emergency response processes and procedures
- the school's general first aid policy, processes and procedures
- the student's ASCIA action plan.

The student's ASCIA Action Plan should be followed if exposure to allergens occurs.

A School Staff member will remain with the student experiencing an anaphylactic response, at all times.

The Adrenaline Autoinjector should be administered following the instructions in the student's ASCIA Action Plan.

If an auto-injector is expired and there is no immediate availability of another, the expired one should be used rather than using nothing.



If a student has a severe allergic reaction but has not been previously diagnosed with an allergy or being at risk of anaphylaxis, the School Staff should follow the school's first aid procedures, which will include immediately contacting an ambulance using 000 or 112 and locating and may include administering an Adrenaline Autoinjector for General Use.

After an incident has concluded it should be documented in The School's student management system.

An anaphylactic reaction can be a very traumatic experience for the student, others witnessing the reaction, and Parents. In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, students and School Staff may benefit from post-incident debriefing, provided by the School Principal, or counselling provided by a psychologist.

Post-incident Review






After an anaphylactic reaction has taken place for a student while in the School's care, the following review processes will take place.

1. The Adrenaline Autoinjector must be replaced by the Parent (or by the School if a General Use Adrenaline Autoinjector was used) as soon as possible.
2. The School Principal will ensure that there is an interim Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan should another anaphylactic reaction occur prior to the replacement Adrenaline Autoinjector being provided.
3. The student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be reviewed in consultation with the student's Parents.
4. The School's Anaphylaxis Management Policy will be reviewed to ensure that it adequately responds to anaphylactic reactions by students who are in the care of School Staff.

Adrenaline Autoinjectors for General Use

The Principal is responsible for arranging for the purchase of additional Adrenaline Autoinjector(s) for General Use and as a back up to those supplied by Parents. The Autoinjector purchased for General Use can be either an Anapen or EpiPen

The School Principal will determine the number of additional Adrenaline Autoinjector(s) required. In doing so, will take into account the following relevant considerations:

-  the number of students enrolled at the School who have been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis;
-  the accessibility of Adrenaline Autoinjectors that have been provided by Parents of students who have been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis;
-  the availability and sufficient supply of Adrenaline Autoinjectors for General Use in specified locations at the School, including:
 -  outdoor areas, and at excursions, camps and special events conducted or organised by the School; and
 -  the Adrenaline Autoinjectors for General Use, which have a limited life (usually expiring within 12-24 months), will be monitored by Administration and will be replaced at the School's expense, either at the time of use or expiry, whichever is first.







Adrenaline Autoinjectors for General Use are stored in the First Aid Room in an easily accessible, clearly identified, unlocked cupboard that is known to all School Staff.

Staff Training

The Principal is responsible for ensuring there is a sufficient number of appropriately trained staff to respond in the school environment to an anaphylaxis emergency. This will include school staff that conduct classes for a student with an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan and any additional staff that the Principal identifies based on a risk assessment.

For the purpose of this policy, the school environment is defined as buildings and grounds used for school activities, along with any other location or facility where activities or events are undertaken.

Staff training will include:

-  successful completion of an Anaphylaxis Management Training Course in the previous three years or an online Anaphylaxis Management Training Course in the previous two years
-  participation in a twice-yearly briefing, delivered by a staff member who has completed an anaphylaxis management training course within the last two years, the first of which will be held at the beginning of a school year, on:
 -  the School's Anaphylaxis Management Policy;
 -  causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis;
 -  the names and information about students enrolled in the school who are at risk of anaphylaxis and where their medicine and auto-injectors are located;
 -  how to use an Adrenaline Autoinjector, including hands on practise with a trainer Adrenaline Autoinjector;

- ✿ the School's general first aid and emergency response procedures; and
- ✿ the location of General Use Adrenaline Autoinjectors

In the event that the relevant training and briefing has not occurred prior to the student's first day at the school, the School Principal will develop an interim Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan in consultation with the Parents. The interim Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be provided to relevant School Staff before the student's first day at school and training will be provided as soon as practicable after this time.

Annual Risk Management Checklist

The School Principal will complete an annual Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklist to monitor the School's compliance with Ministerial Order 706 and the associated Guidelines.

Related Documentation

- ✿ Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan template
- ✿ First Aid Register
- ✿ VHS Annual Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklist
- ✿ VHS Anaphylaxis Communication Plan
- ✿ VHS Register of Students at Risk of Anaphylaxis
- ✿ Enrolment Agreement

Related Policies

- ✿ First Aid Policy
- ✿ Emergency Management Plan
- ✿ Critical Incident Plan