

Yarrabah School

ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT

POLICY

PURPOSE

To explain to Yarrabah 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 Yarrabah 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

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.

Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans

All students at Yarrabah 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/School Nurse of Yarrabah 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 Yarrabah 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;
- Provide an up to date ASCIA Action Plan yearly.

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
- 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 autoinjectors

The student's ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis together with their prescribed adrenaline autoinjector will be stored in a labelled bumbag carried with the student at all times.

General use autoinjectors with the relevant student's ASCIA Action plan will be stored in a labelled bumbag carried with the student at all times.

Student Individual Anaphylaxis management Plans will be stored in Sickbay.

ASCIA Action Plans will be displayed in common areas such as Classrooms, Section kitchen areas, Sickbay and Life Skills kitchen.

RISK MINIMISATION AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of those students who have been diagnosed at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens), and prevention of exposure to these triggers.

The school will;

- Know and avoid the causes of anaphylactic reactions
- Not allow food sharing or swapping
- Only give foods approved by the child's parents to those students identified as anaphylactic
- Use non-food treats where possible, but if food treats are used, give only those provided by the parents to a student who is at risk of anaphylaxis (encourage parents to provide a container of safe treats from home)
- Products labelled 'may contain traces of nuts' should not be served to students allergic to nuts. Products labelled 'may contain milk or egg' should not be served to students with milk or egg allergy and so forth.
- Practise routine hygiene and good food safety practices. Children and staff should always wash their hands after play and before and after eating
- Raise awareness of anaphylaxis with children through class discussions and newsletters
- Ensure that, should a student bring foods containing the anaphylactic trigger for a student in their classroom, the student will, under the supervision of the Principal or nominated staff member, eat lunch in a designated area within the classroom, dispose of rubbish appropriately and wash their hands thoroughly. The table this student sat at will be cleaned thoroughly with hot, soapy water. The Principal or nominated staff member will contact the family to discuss anaphylactic triggers.
- Designate a staff member to inform casual relief teachers, specialist teachers and volunteers of the names of any students at risk of anaphylaxis, the location of each student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan and adrenaline autoinjector and the school's Anaphylaxis Management Policy..
- Clear communication and understanding of the location of student epipens on camps, excursions etc recorded on the Risk register.

Adrenaline autoinjectors for general use

Yarrabah School will maintain a supply of adrenaline autoinjectors 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 autoinjectors for general use will be stored in Staff room and in Sickbay and will be labelled "general use".

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

- the number of students enrolled at the school who are 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.

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 School Nurse. 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 in the child's classroom.• 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 EpiPen or EpiPen Jr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove from plastic container• Form a fist around the EpiPen 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 EpiPen• Note the time the EpiPen is administered• Retain the used EpiPen 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 – 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.

Communication Plan

This policy will be available on Yarrabah School's website so that parents and other members of the school community can easily access information about Yarrabah School's anaphylaxis management procedures.

The principal is responsible for ensuring that all relevant staff, including casual relief staff, canteen staff and volunteers are aware of this policy and Yarrabah School's procedures for anaphylaxis management. The principal is also responsible for ensuring relevant staff are trained and briefed in anaphylaxis management, consistent with the Department's *Anaphylaxis Guidelines*.

Staff training

The principal will ensure that all school staff are appropriately trained in anaphylaxis management. Every two years, all school staff who come into contact with children must complete ASCIA e-training and have their training verified by the School Anaphylaxis Supervisor. During the verification process all staff members must demonstrate correct use of adrenaline auto-injectors and respond to school specific scenarios.

The School Anaphylaxis Supervisor must complete approved anaphylaxis training every three years and ASCIA e-training for schools every year.

The School Anaphylaxis Supervisor is responsible for running twice yearly briefings for all staff. 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 Yarrabah 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.

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.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Annual Risk management Checklist

Appendix B: Individual Management Plan

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
 - [Anaphylaxis](#)
 - [Anaphylaxis management in schools](#)
- Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia: [Risk minimisation strategies](#)
- ASCIA Guidelines: [Schooling and childcare](#)

Royal Children's Hospital: [Allergy and immunology](#)

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

- 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.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

Feb 2024

