



St Mary's Primary School Bairnsdale

Anaphylaxis Management Policy

1.0 Introduction

Anaphylaxis is a serious health issue for a percentage of the population and St Mary's Primary recognises the key to preventing an anaphylactic reaction by a student is knowledge, awareness and planning. Partnerships between schools and parents are important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from the student while at school.

Adrenaline given through an auto injector to the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

2.0 PURPOSE

Following this policy will enable staff at St Mary's Primary to:

- provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the student's schooling
- raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy in the school community
- engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks
- develop risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student
- have adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

3.0 PRINCIPLES

- 3.1 St Mary's Primary will fully comply with Ministerial Order #706: Anaphylaxis Management in Victorian Schools and the associated Guidelines published by the Department of Education and Training.
- 3.2 Knowledge, training and procedures support staff when dealing with students at risk.
- 3.3 Controlling risks will help to create a safe environment for all students
- 3.4 Students at risk at St Mary's Primary can participate equally and 'on the same basis' as all other students.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

4.1 Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a severe allergic reaction that requires emergency medical attention. Exposure to an allergen, or trigger, can cause immediate and life-threatening symptoms such as breathing difficulties. Treatment involves an injection of adrenaline, usually given with an adrenaline auto-injector device (AAI).¹ The most common allergens in children are eggs, peanuts, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, certain insect stings and medications

4.2 Adrenaline

Adrenaline (epinephrine) is a natural hormone released in response to stress. It is an antidote to the chemicals released during a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to allergens such as foods, drugs or insects. It is therefore used as first aid emergency treatment of anaphylaxis. As adrenaline is destroyed by enzymes in the stomach, it needs to be injected. When injected, it rapidly reverses the effects of anaphylaxis by reducing throat swelling, opening the airways, and maintaining blood pressure².

4.3 EpiPen

Adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) – In Australia, the two brands of adrenaline auto-injector devices are **EpiPen** and AnaPen. They are designed to deliver a measured dose of adrenaline. Injectable adrenaline comes in two dose sizes: one for larger children and adults, and one for children who weigh between 10kg and 20kg³.

5.0 PROCEDURES

5.1 Individual Management Plan

The principal will ensure that an individual 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.

5.1.1 *The individual anaphylaxis management plan will set out the following:*

- Information about the diagnosis, including the type of allergy or allergies the student has (based on a diagnosis from a medical practitioner).
- Strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of school staff, for in-school and out of school settings including camps and excursions. Note: Appendix 2 (pp 21 – 23) of the Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Victorian Government Schools contains advice about a range of prevention strategies that can be put in place.
- The name of the person/s responsible for implementing the strategies.
- Information on where the student's medication will be stored.
- The student's emergency contact details.

5.1.2 *An emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan), provided by the parent, that:*

- a. sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction
- b. is signed by a medical practitioner who was treating the child on the date the practitioner signs the emergency procedures plan; and - includes an up to date photograph of the student. Note: The red and blue 'ASCIA Action Plan' is the most common form of emergency procedures plan that is provided by medical practitioners to parents when a child is diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis. An example can be downloaded from <http://www.allergy.org.au/health-professionals/anaphylaxis-resources/ascia-action-plan-for-anaphylaxis>

5.1.3 *The student's individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/ carers:*

- annually, and as applicable,
- if the student's condition changes, or
- immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school.

5.1.4 *It is the responsibility of the parent to:*

- provide the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan)
- inform the school if their child's medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan)
- provide an up to date photo for the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) when the plan is provided to the school and when it is reviewed
- provide St Mary's Primary with an Adrenaline Auto injector that is current and not expired.

5.2 Communication Plan

The school will develop a communication plan which will include information about what steps will be taken to respond to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in a classroom, in the school yard, on school excursions, on school camps and special event days. This will be published in the staff handbook each year and in the CRT package that they collect each time they work in the school. In addition a copy of the Action Plan for Anaphylaxis and a copy of each student's anaphylaxis action plan will be included in the staff diary each semester.

Volunteers and casual relief staff of students at risk of anaphylaxis will be informed of students at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in their care by the teacher in charge of the camp or excursion.

All staff will be briefed once each semester by a staff member who has up to date anaphylaxis management training on:

- the school's anaphylaxis management policy
- the causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis
- the identities of students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis and where their medications located
- how to use an auto adrenaline injecting device
- the school's first aid and emergency response procedures.
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In addition a copy of the DVD - "Anaphylaxis – *Recognizing And Responding To Anaphylaxis*" can be borrowed from the <school's> library for staff reference or for the purpose of staff briefings.

5.3 Staff Training and Emergency Response

Teachers and other school staff who conduct classes which students at risk of anaphylaxis attend, or give instruction to students at risk of anaphylaxis must have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.

At other times while the student is under the care or supervision of St Mary's Primary, including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days, the principal must ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff present who have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.

The principal will identify St Mary's Primary staff to be trained based on a risk assessment. This would usually be the majority of our staff members and would occur once a year.

Training will be provided to these staff as soon as practicable after the student enrolls. Wherever possible, training will take place before the student's first day at school. Where this is not possible, an interim plan will be developed in consultation with the parents.

The school's first aid procedures and student's emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

5.4 Annual Risk Management Checklist

The Principal will complete an annual [Risk Management Checklist](#) as published by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to monitor compliance with their obligations.

6.0 Expected outcomes

- 6.1** There will be reduced instances of anaphylactic reactions.
- 6.2** Staff will have a clear understanding of managing anaphylaxis.
- 6.3** Staff will have a clear understanding of how to respond should an anaphylactic reaction ever occur.
- 6.4** Parents/carers of students diagnosed with anaphylaxis will feel confident that the school has in place strategies that minimise risk for their child.
- 6.5** Anaphylaxis incidents will be managed to minimise the risk to students and staff.

7.0 REFERENCES

Better Health Channel. *Anaphylaxis*.

<http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/anaphylaxis> accessed 10 April 2015.

Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy. *Adrenaline for Severe Allergies*.

<http://www.allergy.org.au/patients/allergy-treatment/adrenaline-for-severe-allergies> accessed 10 April 2015.

Better Health Channel. *Anaphylaxis*.

<http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/anaphylaxis> accessed 10 April 2015

Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) (<http://www.allergy.org.au/>)

ASCIA Guidelines for prevention of food anaphylactic reactions in schools, preschools and childcare centres (<http://www.allergy.org.au/pospapers/anaphylaxis.htm>)
Department of Education and Training (DET). [Anaphylaxis Guidelines](#). February 2014
Department of Education and Training (DET). [Anaphylaxis Management in Schools](#).
EDUCATION AND TRAINING REFORM ACT 2006. [Ministerial Order No.706](#): *Anaphylaxis Management in Victorian schools*
Ministerial Order 706 and associated Guidelines *Anaphylaxis Management for all Victorian Schools Implementation Questions and Answers*. 2014

8.0 REVIEW

Implementation: June 2020

Review: June 2022