

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Statewide Vision Resource Centre

This Statewide Vision Resource Centre policy is available in braille hard copy and etext format from our administration upon request.

PURPOSE

To explain to Statewide Vision Resource Centre 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 Statewide Vision Resource Centre 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

Statewide Vision Resource Centre will fully comply with Ministerial Order 706 and the associated guidelines published by the Department of Education.

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 Statewide Vision Resource Centre 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 Assistant Principal of Statewide Vision Resource Centre 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 Support Skills and DOT Power Programs and where possible before the student's first day at our centre.

Parents and carers must:

- obtain an ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis from the student's medical practitioner and provide a copy to the centre as soon as practicable
- immediately inform the centre 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 centre and each time it is reviewed
- provide the centre 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 staff, including in the school yard, at camps and excursions, or at special events conducted, organised, or attended by the centre
- 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 the centre
- 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.

Statewide Vision Resource Centre 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 centre.

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 green medical box in Office 1, together with the student's adrenaline autoinjector. Adrenaline autoinjectors must be labelled with the student's name.

Risk Minimisation Strategies

To reduce the risk of a student suffering from an anaphylactic reaction at Statewide Vision Resource Centre, we have put in place the following strategies:

- staff and students are regularly reminded to wash their hands after eating.
- students are discouraged from sharing food
- garbage bins at the centre are to remain covered with lids to reduce the risk of attracting insects
- tongs will be used when picking up papers or rubbish in the playground.
- Support Skills and DOT Power groups will be informed of allergens that must be avoided in advance of class parties, events, or birthdays
- a general use adrenaline autoinjectors will be stored in the first aid room (Office 1), and first aid excursion backpacks and in the oval yard duty bag for ease of access.

- Planning for off-site activities will include risk minimisation strategies for students at risk of anaphylaxis including supervision requirements, appropriate number of trained staff, emergency response procedures and other risk controls appropriate to the activity and students attending.
- Consider children with food allergy when planning any fundraisers, cultural days or stalls for fair/fete days, breakfast mornings etc. Notices may need to be sent to parent community discouraging specific food products. E.g., nuts.
- Engage parents in discussion prior to cooking sessions and activities using food.
- Remind all children to not share food they have cooked with others at school.
- Music teacher to be aware, there should be no sharing of wind instruments e.g., recorders. Speak with the parent about providing the child's own instrument.
- Ensure containers used by students at risk of anaphylaxis do not contain allergens. e.g., egg white or yolk on an egg carton.
- Activities such as face painting or mask making (when moulded on the face of the child), should be discussed with parents prior to the event, as products used may contain food allergens such as peanut, tree nut, milk, or egg.
- Care to be taken with play dough etc. Check that nut oils have not been used in manufacture. Discuss options with parent of wheat allergic child.
- Parents of children at risk of anaphylaxis should be informed that sunscreen is offered to children. Brand name to be shared.

Adrenaline autoinjectors for general use

Statewide Vision Resource Centre 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 Statewide Vision Resource Centre.

Adrenaline autoinjectors for general use will be stored in the first aid room (Office 1) and in the black back packs and labelled First Aid.

The Assistant Principal and/or Leading Teacher is responsible for arranging the purchase of adrenaline autoinjectors for general use, and will consider:

- the number of students enrolled at Support Skills and DOT Power Programs 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 centre, 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.

Emergency Response

In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, the emergency response procedures in this policy must be followed, together with Statewide Vision Resource Centre 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 Leading Teacher and stored in the first aid room (Office 1). 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 Statewide Vision Resource Centre or during a learning activity, staff must:

1. 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 in Office 1 general use autoinjector, and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan
 - 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. Administer an EpiPen or EpiPen Jr
 - 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.

OR

Administer an Anapen 500, Anapen 300, or Anapen Jr.

- 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 10 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, staff should follow steps 2 – 5 as above.

Centre 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, the centre 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 Statewide Vision Resource Centre's website so that parents and other members of the community can easily access information about Statewide Vision Resource Centre's anaphylaxis management procedures. The parents and carers of students who are enrolled at Support Skills and DOT Power Programs and are identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis will also be provided with a copy of this policy.

The Assistant Principal is responsible for ensuring that all relevant staff, including casual relief staff, and volunteers are aware of this policy and Statewide Vision Resource Centre'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 Assistant 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 the following school staff are appropriately trained in anaphylaxis management:

- Statewide Vision Resource Centre staff who conduct classes attended by students who are at risk of anaphylaxis
- Statewide Vision Resource Centre who conducts specialist classes, admin staff, first aiders and any other member of 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.

Statewide Vision Resource Centre uses the following training course ASCIA eTraining course and are then verified in correct EpiPen use by our two anaphylaxis verifiers.

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 (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 (Office 1)
- how to use an adrenaline autoinjector, including hands on practice with a trainer adrenaline autoinjector
- Statewide Vision Resource Centre'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 Statewide Vision Resource Centre for general use.

When a new student enrolls at Statewide Vision Resource Centre who is at risk of anaphylaxis, the Assistant Principal and/or leading Teacher 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 in the anaphylaxis training register located on the SVRC Human Resources – Training and Development SharePoint site.

The Assistant Principal will ensure that while students at risk of anaphylaxis are under the care or supervision of Statewide Vision Resource Centre 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 Statewide Vision Resource Centre staff present who have been trained in anaphylaxis management.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- The Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):
 - [Anaphylaxis](#)
- [Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia](#)
- ASCIA Guidelines: [Schooling and childcare](#)
- Royal Children's Hospital: [Allergy and immunology](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	Approved by	Next scheduled review date
November 2022	Principal	November 2024

The Assistant 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.