

# ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

## PURPOSE

To explain to the parents/carers, staff and students of Dohertys Creek College the processes and procedures in place to support students diagnosed as being at risk of suffering from anaphylaxis. This policy also ensures that the 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/carers.

## POLICY

### School Statement

Dohertys Creek College 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 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 Dohertys Creek College 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 school Principal 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 the school and where possible, before the student's first day.

Parents/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
- 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
- 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 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 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**

A copy of each student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be stored with their ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis at the general office/sick bay. Whilst some students may keep their adrenaline autoinjector on their person, medication for those that do not will be stored and labelled with their name in the first aid room together with adrenaline autoinjectors for general use.

Copies of student plans will also be kept in the student's classroom, specialist classrooms, on the wall in sickbay, in staff yard duty bags and in CRT folders.

### **Risk Minimisation Strategies**

The school will use the checklist and recommendations in the Anaphylaxis Guidelines to implement Risk Minimisation and Prevention Strategies in-school and out-of-school settings which include (but are not limited to) the following:

- during classroom activities (including class rotations, specialist and elective classes)
- between classes and other breaks
- in canteen and student kitchen
- during recess and lunchtimes
- before and after school
- camps and excursions, or at special events conducted, organised or attended by the school (e.g. class parties, elective subjects and work experience, cultural days, fetes, concerts, events at other schools, competitions or incursions).

The strategies chosen will depend on our school community, the age of our students and the types of allergies that they may suffer from. Appendix F of the Department's [Anaphylaxis Guidelines](#) includes detailed risk mitigation strategies that we may adopt.

*To reduce the risk of a student suffering from an anaphylactic reaction at Dohertys Creek College, 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
- Outside garbage bins at school remain covered with lids to reduce the risk of attracting insects
- Tongs are used to pick up papers or rubbish in the playground;
- Staff responsible for handling food are trained in appropriate food handling to reduce the risk of cross-contamination
- year groups are informed of allergens that must be avoided in advance of class parties and events
- birthday celebrations where food is supplied by a parent with the intention of sharing is not allowed
- a general use EpiPen® will be stored in the first aid room and in first aid kits used for excursions and camps

Other strategies that will be implemented by the school to assist anaphylaxis management include:

- providing professional development for all staff including the identification and response to anaphylaxis and the proper use of an EpiPen®/Anapen®
- identifying susceptible children and knowing their allergens
- ensuring all staff are advised of anaphylactic students at the College
- informing the community about anaphylaxis via the newsletter
- not allowing food sharing and restricting food to that approved by parents
- keeping the lawns well mown and ensuring children always wear shoes
- requiring parents to provide an Emergency Management Plan developed in consultation with a health professional and an EpiPen®/Anapen® if necessary, both of which will be maintained in the general office for reference as required

### **Annual Risk Management Checklist**

The Principal will complete an annual Risk Management Checklist as published by the Department of Education and Training to monitor compliance with the school's obligations.

## Adrenaline Autoinjectors for General Use

Dohertys Creek College will maintain a supply of adrenaline autoinjector(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 autoinjectors for general use will be stored in the first aid room and labelled “general use”.

The Principal is responsible for arranging the purchase of adrenaline autoinjectors for general use, and will consider:

- the number of students enrolled at Dohertys Creek P-9 College 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. (The First Aid Coordinator will be responsible for checking and replacing the Adrenaline Autoinjectors for General Use.)

## 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 First Aid Coordinator and stored in the first aid room.

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"><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 autoinjector or the school’s general use autoinjector, and the student’s Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan, stored in the first aid room</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 will follow steps 2 – 5 as above.

NB: If in doubt, it is better to use an adrenaline autoinjector 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.

### **Communication Plan**

This policy will be available on Dohertys Creek P-9 College's website so that parents and other members of the school community can easily access information about Dohertys Creek P-9 College's anaphylaxis management procedures. The parents and carers of students who are enrolled at Dohertys Creek P-9 College 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, canteen staff and volunteers are aware of this policy and Dohertys Creek P-9 College'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. This policy will also be included in volunteer/ CRT induction packs.

Canteen staff will be provided with a copy of this policy as well as copies of each student's individual plan for them to display in an appropriate area in the canteen for easy reference.

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.

All staff will complete the ASCIA e-training course for Victorian Schools once every two years and have their competency in using an autoinjector tested in person within 30 days of completing the course.

The online ASCIA e-training course is fully funded for all Victorian school staff. The course will take approximately one hour and can be accessed at <https://etrainingvic.allergy.org.au/>

Two staff members will be trained as School Anaphylaxis Supervisors (Course in verifying the correct use of adrenaline autoinjector devices 22303Vic) to be able to assess other staff's competency in using an autoinjector in person. This course is provided by the Asthma Foundation, is free to government schools and is valid for 3 years.

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 including the First Aid Co-ordinator, Assistant Principal or 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 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 Dohertys Creek P-9 College 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.

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Policy and Advisory Library:
  - [Anaphylaxis](#)
- Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia: [Risk minimisation strategies](#)
- ASCIA Guidelines: [Schooling and childcare](#)
- Royal Children's Hospital: [Allergy and immunology](#)
- Health Care Needs Policy
- First Aid Policy

## REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

This policy was last updated on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and is scheduled for review in September, 2021.

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.