

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

PURPOSE

To explain to Echuca East Primary 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 Echuca East Primary 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

School Statement

Echuca East Primary School 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 Echuca East Primary 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 of Echuca East Primary 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 Echuca East Primary 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;
- 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 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

A copy of each student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be stored with their ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis in the Sick Bay within the Administration area, together with the student's adrenaline autoinjector. Adrenaline autoinjectors must be labelled with the student's name.

A copy of the student's anaphylaxis plan will also be located in their classroom, all staff will be aware of the students with Anaphylaxis.

Risk Minimisation Strategies

Risk Minimisation and Prevention Strategies that Echuca East Primary School will put in place for all relevant in-school and out-of-school settings include (but are not limited to) the following:

Use of Nitrile (Latex free) gloves throughout the school – includes all first aid bags used in the school and on camps/excursions & sickbay.

Fabric Band-aids are used throughout the school (Latex free) unless otherwise specified.

In-school Settings

Classrooms

1. Keep a copy of the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan in the classroom. Be sure the ASCIA Action Plan is easily accessible even if the Adrenaline Autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen®) is kept in another location.
2. Liaise with parents about food-related activities ahead of time.
3. Use non-food treats where possible, but if food treats are used in class it is recommended that parents of students with food allergy provide a treat box with alternative treats. Treat boxes should be clearly labelled and only handled by the student.
4. Never give food from outside sources to a student who is at risk of anaphylaxis.
5. Treats for other students in the class should not contain the substance to which the student is allergic. It is recommended to use non-food treats where possible.
6. 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.
7. Be aware of the possibility of hidden allergens in food and other substances used in cooking, science and art classes (e.g. egg or milk cartons, empty peanut butter jars).
8. Ensure all cooking utensils, preparation dishes, plates, and knives and forks etc are washed and cleaned thoroughly after preparation of food and cooking.
9. Have regular discussions with students about the importance of washing hands, eating their own food and not sharing food.
10. A designated staff member should 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 (i.e. EpiPen®), the school's Anaphylaxis Management Policy, and each individual person's responsibility in managing an incident, i.e. seeking a trained staff member.

Canteens

1. Canteen staff (whether internal or external) should be able to demonstrate satisfactory training in food allergen management and its implications on food-handling practices, including knowledge of the major food allergens triggering anaphylaxis, cross-contamination issues specific to food allergy, label reading, etc. Refer to: '[Food Safety Standards](#)' in the DET Policy and Advisory Library

Helpful resources can be found at [Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia](#)

2. Canteen staff, including volunteers, should be briefed about students at risk of anaphylaxis and, where the Principal determines in accordance with clause **12.1.2 of the Order (see references)**, have up to date training in an Anaphylaxis Management Training Course as soon as practical after a student enrolls.
3. Display the student's name and photo in the canteen as a reminder to school staff.
4. Products labelled 'may contain traces of nuts' should not be served to students allergic to nuts.
5. Canteens should provide a range of healthy meals/products that exclude peanut or other nut products in the ingredient list or a 'may contain...' statement.
6. Make sure that tables and surfaces are wiped down with warm soapy water regularly.
7. Food banning is not generally recommended. Instead, a 'no-sharing' with the students with food allergy approach is recommended for food, utensils and food containers. However, school communities can agree to not stock peanut and tree nut products (e.g. hazelnuts, cashews, almonds, etc.), including chocolate/hazelnut spreads.
8. Be wary of contamination of other foods when preparing, handling or displaying food. For example, a tiny amount of butter or peanut butter left on a knife and used elsewhere may be enough to cause a severe reaction in someone who is at risk of anaphylaxis from cow's milk products or peanuts.

Yard

1. If the school has a student who is at risk of anaphylaxis, sufficient school staff on yard duty must be trained in the administration of the Adrenaline Autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen®) to be able to respond quickly to an anaphylactic reaction if needed.
2. Each student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan are easily accessible in yard duty bags, and staff should be aware of the exact location of the Adrenaline Autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen®) .
3. Schools must have a Communication Plan in place so the student's medical information and medication can be retrieved quickly if a reaction occurs in the yard. Staff on yard duty are asked to carry their charged mobile phone at all times. All staff on yard duty must be aware of the school's Emergency Response Procedures and how to notify the general office/first aid team of an anaphylactic reaction in the yard.
4. Yard duty staff must be able to identify, by face, those students at risk of anaphylaxis.
5. Students with anaphylactic responses to insects should be encouraged to stay away from water or flowering plants. School staff should liaise with parents to encourage students to wear light or dark rather than bright colours, as well as closed shoes and long-sleeved garments when outdoors.
6. Keep lawns and clover mowed and outdoor bins covered.

Special events (e.g. sporting events, incursions, class parties etc)

1. If the school has a student at risk of anaphylaxis, sufficient school staff supervising the special event must be trained in the administration of an Adrenaline Autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen®) to be able to respond quickly to an anaphylactic reaction if required.
2. School staff should avoid using food in activities or games, including as rewards.

3. For special occasions, school staff should consult parents in advance to either develop an alternative food menu or request the parents to send a meal for the student.
4. Parents of other students should be informed in advance about foods that may cause allergic reactions in students at risk of anaphylaxis and request that they avoid providing students with treats whilst they are at school or at a special school event.
5. Party balloons should not be used if any student is allergic to latex.

Out-of-school settings

Travel to and from school by bus

1. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to list their child's medical conditions on the application to travel (on the bus). The parents/guardians will agree on a suitable medical management plan with the coordinating Principal. This should include appropriate risk minimisation and prevention strategies and processes are in place to address an anaphylactic reaction should it occur on the way to and from school on the bus. This includes the availability and administration of an Adrenaline Autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen®). The Adrenaline Autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen®) and ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis must be with the student even if this child is deemed too young to carry an Adrenaline Autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen®) on their person at school.

Where appropriate, the coordinating Principal should provide the bus operator with details of the medical condition.

Parents/guardians must be informed that bus drivers are not medically trained and are not expected to perform any medical intervention.

Parents/guardians must ensure that the school has access to their most recent contact numbers to be used in the event of emergency.

Excursions / sporting events

1. A school staff member or team of school staff trained in the recognition of anaphylaxis and the administering of the Adrenaline Autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen®) must accompany any student at risk of anaphylaxis on excursions.
2. If the school has a student at risk of anaphylaxis, sufficient school staff supervising the special event must be trained in the administering of an Adrenaline Autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen®) and be able to respond quickly to an anaphylactic reaction if required.
3. School staff should avoid using food in activities or games, including as rewards.
4. The Adrenaline Autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen®) and a copy of the Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan for each student at risk of anaphylaxis should be easily accessible and school staff must be aware of their exact location.
5. For each excursion etc, a risk assessment should be undertaken for each individual student attending who is at risk of anaphylaxis. The risks may vary according to the number of anaphylactic students attending, the nature of the excursion/sporting event, size of venue, distance from medical assistance, the structure of excursion and corresponding staff-student ratio. All school staff members present during the excursion need to be aware of the identity of any students attending who are at risk of anaphylaxis and be able to identify them by face.
6. The school should consult parents of anaphylactic students in advance to discuss issues that may arise; to develop an alternative food menu; or request the parents provide a meal (if required).

7. Prior to the excursion taking place school staff should consult with the student's parents and Medical Practitioner (if necessary) to review the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan to ensure that it is up to date and relevant to the particular excursion activity.

Camps and remote settings

1. Prior to engaging a camp owner/operator's services the school should make enquiries as to whether it can provide food that is safe for anaphylactic students. If a camp owner/operator cannot provide this confirmation to the school, then the school should consider using an alternative service provider.
2. The camp cook should be able to demonstrate satisfactory training in food allergen management and its implications on food-handling practices, including knowledge of the major food allergens triggering anaphylaxis, cross-contamination issues specific to food allergy, label reading, etc.
3. Schools should conduct a risk assessment and develop a risk management strategy for students at risk of anaphylaxis. This should be developed in consultation with parents of students at risk of anaphylaxis and camp owners/operators prior to the camp dates.
4. School Staff should consult with parents of students at risk of anaphylaxis and the camp owner/operator to ensure that appropriate risk minimisation and prevention strategies and processes are in place to address an anaphylactic reaction should it occur. If these procedures are deemed to be inadequate, further discussions, planning and implementation will need to be undertaken.
5. If the school has concerns about whether the food provided on a camp will be safe for students at risk of anaphylaxis, it should also consider alternative means for providing food for those students.
6. Use of substances containing allergens should be avoided where possible.
7. Camps should avoid stocking peanut or tree nut products, including nut spreads. Products that 'may contain' traces of nuts may be served, but not to students who are known to be allergic to nuts.
8. The student's Adrenaline Autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen®), Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan, including the ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis and a mobile phone must be taken on camp. If mobile phone access is not available, an alternative method of communication in an emergency must be considered, e.g. a satellite phone.
9. Prior to the camp taking place school staff should consult with the student's parents to review the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan to ensure that it is up to date and relevant to the circumstances of the particular camp.
10. School staff participating in the camp should be clear about their roles and responsibilities in the event of an anaphylactic reaction. Check the emergency response procedures that the camp provider has in place. Ensure that these are sufficient in the event of an anaphylactic reaction and ensure all school staff participating in the camp are clear about their roles and responsibilities.
11. Contact local emergency services and hospitals well prior to the camp. Advise full medical conditions of students at risk, location of camp and location of any off camp activities. Ensure contact details of emergency services are distributed to all school staff as part of the emergency response procedures developed for the camp.
12. The Adrenaline Autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen®) should remain close to the student and school staff must be aware of its location at all times.

13. The secondary Adrenaline Autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen®) should be carried in the cool pack bag, however, schools can consider allowing students, particularly adolescents, to carry their Adrenaline Autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen®) on camp. Remember that all school staff members still have a duty of care towards the student even if they do carry their own Adrenaline Autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen®).
14. Students with anaphylactic responses to insects should always wear closed shoes and long-sleeved garments when outdoors and should be encouraged to stay away from water or flowering plants.
15. Cooking and art and craft games should not involve the use of known allergens.
16. Consider the potential exposure to allergens when consuming food on buses and in cabins.

Adrenaline autoinjectors for general use

Echuca East Primary School will maintain a supply of adrenaline of 2 autoinjectors (1 adult, 1 junior under 20kg) 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 Sick Bay 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 Echuca East Primary School 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 Kathy Wilson, First Aid officer, and stored in the Sick Bay, Classrooms and Yard Duty bags. 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 either the Sickbay, Classroom or Yard Duty. • 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 (if the student is under 20kg) <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
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.

[Note: 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. Refer to [Frequently asked questions — Anaphylaxis](#).

Communication Plan

This policy will be available on Echuca East Primary School's website so that parents and other members of the school community can easily access information about Echuca East Primary School's anaphylaxis management procedures. The parents and carers of students who are enrolled at Echuca East Primary School and are identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis will also be provided with a copy of this policy.

The School Anaphylaxis Supervisor is responsible for ensuring that all relevant staff, including casual relief staff, canteen staff and volunteers are aware of this policy and Echuca East Primary School'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. A copy of the student's ASCIA Action Plan & individual health support plan is included in a handbook for Casual Relief Staff

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 the following school staff are appropriately trained in anaphylaxis management:

School staff who conduct classes attended by students who are at risk of anaphylaxis, school staff who conduct specialist classes, all canteen staff, admin staff, first aiders and any other member of school 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.

Echuca East Primary School uses the online anaphylaxis online training course which is also free to the general public and can be accessed at: <https://etrainingvic.allergy.org.au/>

Please note: in order to successfully complete this training staff will also be required to show the School Anaphylaxis Supervisor that they are able to appropriately and competently use an adrenaline autoinjector. This capability must be tested within 30 days of completion of the online training course

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 Supervisors are: Kathy Wilson & Julie Pocklington].

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 Echuca East Primary 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.

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](#)
- Echuca East Primary school's Anaphylaxis Policy, First Aid Policy, Asthma Policy and Health Care needs policy is located on our school website at <https://echucaeastps.vic.edu.au/>

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

This policy was last updated by the Principal in March 2025 and is scheduled for review in March 2026.

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.