



ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the general office on 5571 1478 for further details.

PURPOSE

To explain to George Street 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 George Street 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

George Street 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 George Street 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 George Street 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 George Street 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:



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- 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

Depending on the age of the students at George Street Primary School who are at risk of anaphylaxis, the severity of their allergies and the content of their plan, some students may keep their adrenaline autoinjector on their person, rather than in a designated location. This will be noted in their plan and staff will, at minimum, be briefed twice yearly and a copy of this policy will be handed to staff on Staff Induction.

- Any student at George Street Primary School that is not able to keep the autoinjector on them in person will have their autoinjector stored in a safe place in either, the first aid room, in a tub labelled with their full name or in their main classroom in a safe place with the students name on the tub.
- *A copy of each student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be stored with their ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis at the Sick Bay (next to the general office) together with*

the student's adrenaline autoinjector. Adrenaline autoinjectors must be labelled with the student's name. A copy of the plan will also be stored in the student's classroom and in the staffroom on the medical alert board.

- *A copy of each student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be stored with their ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis at George Street Primary School, in the classroom, first aid room and staffroom. Students are encouraged to keep their adrenaline autoinjectors on their person. Adrenaline autoinjectors for general use are available at George Street Primary School (First Aid Room, next to the front office) and are labelled "general use".*

Risk Minimisation Strategies

This section details the risk minimisation strategies that George Street Primary School has in place to reduce the possibility of a student suffering from an anaphylactic reaction at school. We also consider strategies for all school activities, including:

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

To reduce the risk of a student suffering from an anaphylactic reaction at Example School, we have put in place the following strategies:

- *staff and students are regularly reminded to wash their hands after eating;*
- *Students and families are briefed on any students at risk of anaphylactic reactions and causes*
- *students are discouraged from sharing food*
- *garbage bins at school are to remain covered with lids to reduce the risk of attracting insects*
- *large tongs must be used when picking up papers or rubbish in the playground and these tongs are used to disperse of rubbish;*
- *Staff are trained in appropriate food handling to reduce the risk of cross-contamination*
- *year groups will be informed of allergens that must be avoided in advance of class parties, events or birthdays*
- *a general use EpiPen will be stored at the school canteen, office and in the 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.

Adrenaline autoinjectors for general use

George Street Primary 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 at the first aid room and labelled “general use”.

The principal and First Aid officer will be responsible for arranging the purchase of adrenaline autoinjectors for general use, and will consider:

- the number of students enrolled at George Street 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 **Akala Richardson /Allen Walkeden & Kaylene Kerr** and stored at the following locations, the first aid room on the medical notice board and the staffroom notice board. 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 at first aid room near the staffroom.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (if the student is under 20kg)</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 10 seconds Remove Anapen® Note the time the Anapen is administered <p>Retain the used Anapen to be handed to ambulance paramedics along with the time of administration</p>
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 George Street Primary School’s website so that parents and other members of the school community can easily access information about George Street Primary School’s anaphylaxis management procedures.

The parents and carers of students who are enrolled at George Street Primary and are identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis will also be provided with a copy of this policy.

This policy will be available in the Sick bay for all staff /parents to access

Parents can also request a hard copy from the General Office

The Principal, Tina Walkeden of George Street Primary School is responsible for ensuring all relevant staff, including casual relief teachers, ES and volunteers, are aware of this policy and the school's procedures for anaphylaxis management and students in their care at risk of anaphylaxis. All staff will be given a verbal briefing of this policy at least twice a year.

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

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.

George Street Primary School uses the following training course First Aid HLTAID004, e.g. ASCIA eTraining course (with 22303VIC, or 22300VIC or 10313NAT).

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 Akala Richardson. Each briefing will address:

- this policy to ensure staff are familiar with the 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 George Street 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.



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A record of staff training courses and briefings will be maintained through the school's training register in accordance of Ministerial Order 706.

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](#)
- GSPS First Aide policy /Medications policy
- Ministerial Order 706

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

Policy last reviewed	14 /9 /2022
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	14 /9 /2022

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.