



<b>POLICY</b>	<b>ANAPHYLAXIS</b>
<b>DATE</b>	August 2022
<b>SCHOOL COUNCIL APPROVAL</b>	N/A
<b>REVIEW DATE</b>	August 2023

## PURPOSE

To explain to Blackburn ELS 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 Blackburn ELS 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/guardians/carers.

## POLICY

### School Statement

Blackburn ELS 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 auto injector for use in an emergency. These adrenaline auto injectors are designed so that anyone can use them in an emergency.

## Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans

All students at Blackburn ELS 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 Blackburn ELS is responsible for developing a plan in consultation with the student's parents/guardians/carers.

Where necessary, an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be in place as soon as practicable after a student enrolls at Blackburn ELS and where possible, before the student's first day.

Parents/guardians/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 (if unable to the school will take a photo of the student)
- provide the school with a current adrenaline auto injector 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 a regular basis in consultation with the student's parents/guardians/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.

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 auto injectors

### Not on their person:

The SWC/First Aid Officer may determine, due to a student's age, English language level or other individual circumstance, that the student does not keep their auto injector on their person. In this situation the student's adrenaline auto injector will be kept with a copy of his/her individual ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis in the First Aid room/office.

Adrenaline auto injectors must be labelled with the student's name. Adrenaline auto injectors for general use are available in the First Aid Room.

#### **On their person:**

The SWC/First Aid Officer may determine, due to a student's age, English language level or other individual circumstance, that the student keeps their auto injector on their person. A copy of each student's Individual ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis is to be stored in the school office labelled with the student's name.

Adrenaline auto injectors for general use are available at First Aid room.

#### **Risk Minimisation Strategies**

Blackburn ELS employs risk minimisation strategies to reduce the possibility of a student suffering from an anaphylactic reaction at school. These strategies are employed:

- during all classroom activities
- between classes and other breaks
- during recess and lunchtimes
- before and after school
- camps, incursions and excursions

#### **Blackburn ELS does not allow class parties or food rewards to be given to students.**

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

- staff and students are regularly reminded to wash their hands before and after eating
- students are not permitted to share food
- garbage bins at school are to remain covered with lids to reduce the risk of attracting insects
- non-latex gloves must be worn when picking up papers or rubbish in the playground

#### **Adrenaline auto injectors for general use**

Blackburn ELS will maintain a supply of adrenaline auto injectors for general use, as a back-up to those provided by parents/guardians/carers for specific students, and also for students who may suffer from a first-time reaction at school.

Adrenaline auto injectors for general use will be stored in the First Aid rooms based on DET Anaphylaxis guidelines.

#### **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.

Complete and up-to-date lists of students identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis are maintained by the SWC at each campus and stored in the First Aid room.

For camps, excursions and the Harmony Day celebrations, a designated staff member will be responsible for maintaining a list of students in attendance and at risk of anaphylaxis, together with their Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans and adrenaline auto injectors, where appropriate.

In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, the school emergency response procedures must be followed (call the school office by dialling 9).

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>• Ring the office (dial 9) to request assistance, state that an EpiPen is needed and for an ambulance to be called</li> <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> </ul>
2	Administer an EpiPen <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	If there is no improvement or severe symptoms progress further adrenaline doses may be administered every five minutes,
4	Contact the student's emergency contacts.

**Important note:** If in doubt, it is better to use an adrenaline auto injector 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 Blackburn ELS's website so that parents and other members of the school community can easily access information about Blackburn ELS's anaphylaxis management procedures. The parents/guardians/carers of students who are enrolled at Blackburn ELS are identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis will also be provided with a copy of this policy.

The SWC's at Blackburn ELS are responsible for ensuring that all relevant staff, including casual relief staff and volunteers are aware of this policy and the 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.

### Staff training

Staff at Blackburn ELS will receive appropriate training in anaphylaxis management, consistent with the Department's *Anaphylaxis Guidelines*.

Staff who are responsible for conducting classes that students who are at risk of anaphylaxis attend, and any further staff that the principal identifies, 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.

Blackburn ELS uses the following training course [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, facilitated by a staff member who has successfully completed an anaphylaxis management course within the last 2 years including

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 auto injector, including hands on practice with a trainer adrenaline auto injector
- the school's general first aid and emergency response procedures
- the location of, and access to, adrenaline auto injectors that have been provided by parents or purchased by the school for general use.

When a new student enrolls at Blackburn ELS 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.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
  - [Anaphylaxis](#)
  - [Anaphylaxis management in schools](#)
- Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia: [Risk minimisation strategies](#)
- ASCIA Guidelines: [Schooling and childcare](#)
- Royal Children's Hospital: [Allergy and immunology](#)
- Blackburn ELS's Health Care Needs Policy

### **REVIEW**

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.

Policy last reviewed	August 2022
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	August 2023