

# ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY



## PURPOSE

To explain to Glen Waverley Secondary College 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 Glen Waverley Secondary College 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

Glen Waverley Secondary 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 Glen Waverley Secondary 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 Principal of Glen Waverley Secondary College 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 Glen Waverley Secondary College 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 in student's health file in health centre.*
- *The student's current ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis will be pinned on student profile in compass. at [insert location], together with the student's adrenaline autoinjector.*
- *The parent/carer of the student is to provide the school with an in-date Adrenaline autoinjectors, labelled with the student's name for storage on anaphylaxis stand that will be accessible to student / staff & parents when required. A copy of their current ASCIA action plan will be stored with Adrenaline autoinjector.*

#### Risk Minimisation Strategies

*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 are discouraged from sharing food*
- *garbage bins at school are to remain covered with lids to reduce the risk of attracting insects*
- *gloves must be worn when undertaking environmental duties within college grounds*
- *school canteen 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 events*
- *a general use EpiPen will be stored at various locations around the college 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

Glen Waverley Secondary College maintains 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.

There are fourteen (14) Adrenaline autoinjectors for general use are located across the campus and are stored.

- health centre X 3,
- middle school – office X 1 & MD 18/19 kitchen X 1,
- general office X 1,
- art centre staff room, X 1

- senior school coordinator’s office, X 1
- sci – tech front office downstairs, X 1
- sport staff office – Gym X 1
- designated PE staff member – for student with identified exercise induced anaphylaxis X 1
- sporting events – sport’s equipment room – (external sport days) X 2
- music office – Hall X 1

Each is labelled “general use”, with each of these designated areas have clear signage “EpiPen located here” .

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

- the number of students enrolled at Example 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 may include - local, remote & overseas, school events - incursions and excursions.
- 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 the school nurse and stored at in the health centre with student medical records. For camps, excursions and special events, the school nurse will be responsible for maintaining a list of students at risk of anaphylaxis. Staff arranging, attending excursions, camps, or school approved event/s, need to be aware and know background of the student at risk of anaphylaxis. Attending staff need to arrange for an adrenaline autoinjector/s, and obtain a copy of the student’s Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans from the school nurse in advance of the planned event.

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 nearest general use autoinjector, and the student’s Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan, stored at [pinned on student profile on compass]</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.	<p>Administer an EpiPen or EpiPen Jr (if the student is under 20kg)</p> <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> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 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' on the [Resources tab](#) of the Department's Anaphylaxis Policy.]

### Communication Plan

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

[Note: you must outline how you will ensure that all staff, including casual relief teachers, ES, canteen staff and volunteers, are aware of this policy and students in their care at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction of a student in their care. The below text is included as a guide, however, you may include alternative strategies i.e. this policy will be included in volunteer/CRT induction packs, etc].

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that all relevant staff, including casual relief staff, canteen staff and volunteers are aware of this policy and Glen Waverley Secondary College 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, together with access to a copy of Annual Glen Waverley Secondary College Student anaphylaxis Student book be available to casual/CRT staff located in CRT office.

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
- All School staff to undertake anaphylaxis training/accreditation in accordance with Ministerial 706 orders. Those included will be any visitor who conduct specialist classes, all canteen staff, and contractors 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.

Glen Waverley Secondary College uses the following training course.

- ASCIA e-Training course assessment conducted by approved college anaphylaxis supervisors, successful completion and assessment will be valid for two (2 years) **or**
- staff may undertake the following approved course; First Aid Management of Anaphylaxis 22300VIC, or Anaphylaxis Awareness 10313NAT from registered RTO's that have these courses on their scope of practice – both courses are valid for three (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 [ School Anaphylaxis Supervisor or school nurse]. 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 Glen Waverley Secondary 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.

A record of staff training courses and briefings will be maintained [via online Emergency Management Plan together with original of all staff member's anaphylaxis e-training – Located in General office storeroom. ]

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

- 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	August 2021
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	August 2022