

Management of Students at Risk of Anaphylaxis Policy



Source of Obligation

The Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic) (s 4.3.1 (6)(c)) requires all schools to develop an anaphylaxis management policy, where the school knows or ought to reasonably know, that a student enrolled at the school has been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis.

'Ministerial Order No. 706: Anaphylaxis Management in Victorian schools' prescribes specific matters that schools applying for registration and registered schools in Victoria must contain in their anaphylaxis management policy for the purposes of section 4.3.1(6)(c) of the Act.

The Hazard – Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction. Individuals can have a mild, moderate or severe allergic reaction. Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common allergies in school-aged children are peanuts, cow's milk, egg, tree nuts (e.g. cashews and walnuts), wheat, soy, sesame and certain insect bites and stings (particularly bees, wasps, ants and ticks).

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in school is knowledge of students who has been diagnosed as at risk, awareness of allergies and prevention of exposure to those triggers that cause allergic reactions.

Partnerships between the College and parents / guardians are important in helping students avoid exposure as well as age-appropriate education for students.

Adrenaline given through an adrenaline (epinephrine) autoinjector (such as an EpiPen® or EpiPen® Jr) into the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the first aid treatment for anaphylaxis. Adrenaline autoinjectors are designed for use by laypeople.

It is important to remember that minimisation strategies to help reduce the risk of anaphylaxis are everyone's responsibility, including the Principal and all College staff, parents / guardians, students and the broader College community.

Lavalla Catholic College's Policy

Lavalla Catholic College is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all our students and complying with Ministerial Order No.706: Anaphylaxis Management in Victorian Schools, and the Department of Education and Training's Anaphylaxis Guidelines as amended by the Department from time to time.

The College recognises that while policies and procedures to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction can be developed and maintained, they cannot achieve a completely allergen-free environment.

It is critical that staff can recognise an allergic reaction and a potential anaphylaxis risk and treat it appropriately in an emergency.

It is our policy to:

- provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of schooling;
- raise awareness of food and insect allergy and the risk of anaphylaxis and the College's anaphylaxis management policy in the College community;
- engage with parents / guardians of each student at risk of anaphylaxis when assessing risks and developing risk minimisation strategies for the student
- ensure that staff have knowledge about allergies, can recognise an allergic reaction including anaphylaxis and understand the College's policy and guidelines and emergency procedures in responding to anaphylaxis.

Implementation

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

- College premises inspections (to identify wasp and bee hives)
- Staff training and supervision
- Maintenance of student medical records
- Effective incident notification procedures
- Effective communication with the student at risk and their parent / guardian
- Completion of annual risk management checklist
- Effective communication procedures with the school community including all students' parents / guardians
- Initiation of corrective actions where necessary