

The Avenue School

Policy & Procedure Document

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Drafted by	J. Claringbold	Approved by Board on	25/06/2024
Responsible person	Principal	Scheduled review date	25/06/2027
Policy Area	Student Welfare		

Title: Anaphylaxis Management

Purpose

The Avenue School must abide and comply with Ministerial Order 706 and associated Guidelines on Anaphylaxis management to ensure the safety of students with diagnosed condition of anaphylaxis and diagnosed or undiagnosed severe allergies that put them at risk of anaphylaxis.

The Avenue School recognises its responsibility to maintain and review its Anaphylaxis Management Policy on an annual basis.

Rationale

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common allergens are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication.

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis is knowledge of those students who have been diagnosed as at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens), and prevention of exposure to these triggers.

Minimisation of risk of anaphylaxis is everyone's responsibility, however students (and parent/guardians if student is under 18) and other participants who may have allergies need to be made aware that as a school open to the community, allergens may always be present.

Adrenaline given through an EpiPen® autoinjector to the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis. Knowledge of at-risk students, their allergies and rapid location of an EpiPen® is therefore paramount to providing a safe environment.

Commitment

The Avenue School is committed to supporting the safety and wellbeing of students who are at risk of anaphylaxis. The Avenue School aims to minimise the risk of anaphylaxis occurring, and is committed to:

- Providing, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the programs.
- Raising awareness about anaphylaxis and The Avenue School's anaphylaxis management policy.
- Engaging with parents/guardians of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation and management strategies for the student and documenting them on a risk management plan.
- Ensuring that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and The Avenue School's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction in an emergency.

The Avenue School complies with:

- Ministerial Order (MO) 706

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Anaphylaxis Management			

- Guidelines related to anaphylaxis management in schools as published and amended by the Department of Education.
- Minimum of 2 Staff trained in 22578VIC - Anaphylaxis Management. The training is valid for 3 years.

Guidelines

The School may be advised of a diagnosis of Anaphylaxis during the enrolment process when students or their parents/guardians are asked to provide details of allergies and anaphylaxis or the School may be notified of a diagnosis during the student's enrolment at The Avenue School.

A written diagnosis from a medical practitioner of the student having a medical condition that relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, must be provided.

Where the school has been notified of a diagnosis, the Principal is responsible for implementing the guidelines and ensuring that an Individual Anaphylaxis Management plan is developed, in consultation with the student and/or the student's parent/guardians.

The Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls, and where possible before the first day of attendance.

The Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will set out the following:

1. Information about the diagnosis, including the type of allergy or allergies the student has and the potential for anaphylactic reaction (based on the written diagnosis from a medical practitioner).
2. Strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to known and notified allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of school staff, for settings in and out of school, including the school yard, at camps and excursions or at special events conducted, organised or attended by the school.

These include:

- a) The name of the person/s responsible for implementing the strategies.
 - b) Information on where the student's medication will be stored.
 - c) The student's emergency contact details.
 - d) An emergency procedures plan (ASCIA* Action Plan), provided by the parent/guardian, that:
 - I. sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction.
 - II. is signed by a medical practitioner who was treating the student on the date the practitioner signs the emergency procedures plan.
 - III. includes an up-to-date photograph of the student.
3. The student's Individual Management Plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/ guardians:
 - a) Annually, and as applicable.
 - b) If the school receives notification that the student's condition has changed.
 - c) Immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at the school.
 - d) When the student is to participate in an off-site activity, such as camps and excursions, or at special events conducted, organised or attended by the school.
 4. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to:
 - a) Provide the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).
 - b) Inform the school in writing if the student's medical condition, insofar as it relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, changes, and if relevant, provide an updated emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).
 - c) Provide an up-to-date photo for the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) when

- the plan is provided to the school and when it is reviewed.
- d) Provide the school with an adrenaline autoinjector that is current and not expired for their child.

*ACSCIA stands for Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy

Annual Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklist

The Annual Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklist must be completed by the Principal upon the enrolment of a student with a diagnosis of a risk of anaphylaxis and at least annually.

The checklist will identify:

- Number of students diagnosed with a risk of anaphylaxis.
- Storage location of prescribed and school purchased EpiPen(s).
- Number of EpiPens® stored at the school in total.
- Procedures for off-site activities and excursions that are in place.
- EpiPen checking system for expiry date and condition.
- Prevention, communication and emergency strategies that are in place.

Epi-Pens

The Avenue School will purchase spare EpiPen(s) for general use and as a back-up to those supplied by parents. EpiPens® have a limited life, usually expiring within 12-18 months, and a replacement will need to be purchased by The Avenue School either at the time of use or expiry, whichever is first.

- The number of spare EpiPens® will be determined by the Principal upon completion of the Annual Anaphylaxis Risk Management. The Principal will consider:
 - The number of students enrolled who have been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis.
 - The accessibility of EpiPens® that have been provided by parents of students/students who have been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis.
 - The availability and sufficient supply of EpiPens® for general use in locations, including (but not limited to) the school building and grounds or at off-site activities, excursions, camps and special events conducted or organised by the school.
 - Each student diagnosed with Anaphylaxis will carry their own EpiPen on their person and supply a spare EpiPen for the school. (Ratio 2 EpiPens per student plus a spare for general use supplied by the school. More EpiPens may be required following completion of the risk management checklist, to ensure supply is sufficient.)

Storage of EpiPens

- EpiPens will be stored at room temperature.
- EpiPens will be stored in an unlocked and accessible location within the First Aid cupboard at Reception.
- School purchased, general use EpiPens will be clearly marked “generic”.
- Parent/student supplied secondary EpiPens will be labelled clearly with the student’s name.
- Student ASCIA plans will be stored with the Student’s own EpiPen.
- A Register will be available for signing in and out each EpiPen and ASCIA plan.

A Medical Alert Register will record:

- The name of each student at risk of anaphylaxis.
- The location of their Epipen.
- The expiry date of the Epipen.
- Verification that a check has been completed each term ensuring the Epipen's viability (not cloudy) and that it is within date.
- That the student's ASCIA Action Plan is stored with the Epipen.

Communication Plan

The Principal will be responsible for ensuring that a communication plan is developed to provide information to staff, students and parents/guardians about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy.

The student group will be informed about calling 000 and notifying staff in an emergency situation. Fact sheets will be displayed across the school.

The communication plan will include information about steps that will be taken to respond to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in a classroom or engaged in any school activities.

Volunteers and casual relief staff of students at risk of anaphylaxis will be informed by the Principal of students at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction of a student in their care.

Staff Training and Emergency Response

Designated First Aid Officers must have a qualification in First Aid Management of Anaphylaxis renewed every three years and attend annual refreshers. The relevant qualification is 22578VIC - Anaphylaxis Management.

Based on a completed risk assessment, the Principal will identify staff required to undertake training in anaphylaxis management. Training can be either face to face with a reputable first aid provider or on-line via ASCIA e-learning.

Identified staff members will include those who conduct classes, are regularly present in the classroom or who are assigned to conduct activities with the student, on or off-site including:

- Classroom teacher(s).
- Youth worker(s).
- Student support worker(s).

In addition, the Principal and Youth Worker are required to hold a qualification in anaphylaxis management.

Briefings with identified staff will be held at the start and middle of year or when a student with allergies commences. Briefings will be conducted by a staff member who has successfully completed an anaphylaxis management training course (22578VIC - Anaphylaxis Management) within the last two years, and will include:

- The Avenue School's anaphylaxis management policy.
- Causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis.
- Identities of students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis.
- Location of the students' medication and where the spare Epipen® is located.
- Hands on practise with a trainer adrenaline autoinjector.
- The Avenue School's first aid and emergency response procedures.

- Name and location of staff who are trained in anaphylaxis management.

Identified staff members must complete up to date training in general First Aid procedures and in anaphylaxis management. This can be either face to face with a reputable first aid provider or on-line via ASCIA e-learning, which must be undertaken every two years.

At other times while the student is under the care or supervision of the school, including excursions, camps and special event days, the Principal must ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff present who have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.

The Principal, will identify the staff to be trained based on the completed risk assessment. Training will be provided to these staff as soon as practicable after the student enrolls.

Wherever possible, training will take place before the student's first day of attendance. Where this is not possible, an interim plan will be developed in consultation with the student and parents/guardians.

Training and a briefing will take place as soon as possible after an interim plan has been developed, specifically within the timeframe of one week.

The student's emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Principal and Board.

The Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklist will be reviewed annually by the Principal.

Appendix 1

ASCIA Action Plan

Proforma available at: <http://www.allergy.org.au/health-professionals/anaphylaxis-resources/ascia-action-plan-for-anaphylaxis>

Appendix 2

PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Within the School

- Whilst students are required to carry their own EpiPen[®], if an emergency situation arises and it can't be located, a spare EpiPen[®] is held at Reception in the First Aid cupboard.
- All Emergency Anaphylaxis Management Material and Equipment will be located in the reception area first aid cupboard which includes:
 - A copy of the student's ASCIA Action Plan
 - A generic EpiPen[®] which is labelled Generic for emergency use. It also includes a copy of the emergency procedure and each student's ASCIA Action Plan.
 - Student Medical Alert Register.
- Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans and ASCIA Action Plans will be located in areas around the school including the classroom, yard, and any area of the school the student may attend.
- Liaise with parents/guardians about food related activities ahead of time.
- Be aware of the possibility of hidden allergens in any classroom cooking activities, science activities and art classes (e.g. egg, milk cartons and cereal boxes).
- Make sure that kitchen and lunch tables and surfaces are wiped down regularly.
- The Principal must inform casual relief teachers of students at risk of anaphylaxis, preventive strategies in place and the school's emergency procedures. Provide casual relief teachers with a procedure sheet.
- Other staff and volunteers who work with students at risk of an anaphylaxis will be briefed about preventative strategies in place and the school's emergency procedures.

Off-site Activities and Excursions

- The student is required to take their own EpiPen[®] on all excursions and ensure it is available at all times. The staff member in charge is to check the student is carrying their EpiPen[®] or they will have to take the student's secondary EpiPen[®], stay at the school or return home.
- Staff member in charge is to take a copy of the student's ASCIA Action Plan.
- A mobile phone must be taken on all excursions.
- A staff member who has been trained in the recognition of anaphylaxis and the administration of the EpiPen[®] must accompany the student on excursions.
- Staff must develop an emergency procedure that sets out clear roles and responsibilities in the event of an anaphylactic reaction. (See appendix 3 and 4)
- The Principal must consult parents/guardians in advance to discuss issues that may arise, eg, to develop an alternative food menu or request the parent/guardian to send a meal (if required).

Camps/Remote settings

- A risk management strategy for students at risk of anaphylaxis for out-of-hours activities will be developed in consultation with the student's parents/guardians.
- Camps must be advised in advance of any students with food allergies.

- Camps must be checked for mobile phone coverage.
- Be aware of the local emergency services and know how to access them.
- Staff will liaise with parents/guardians to negotiate alternative meals or ask students to bring their own meals.
- Use of other substances containing allergens should be avoided where possible.
- The student's EpiPen®, ASCIA Action Plan and a mobile phone must be taken on camps.
- Staff who have been trained in the recognition of anaphylaxis and the administration of the EpiPen® must accompany the student on out-of-hours activities. All staff present need to be aware if there is a student at risk of anaphylaxis.
- The Principal and attending staff must develop an emergency procedure that sets out clear roles and responsibilities in the event of an anaphylactic reaction.
- The EpiPen® must remain close to the student (and other students if appropriate) and staff must be aware of its location at all times.
- A backup EpiPen® will be available in the first aid kit.
- Students with anaphylactic responses to insects must always wear closed shoes and long-sleeved garments when outdoors and should be encouraged to stay away from water or flowering plants.
- Cooking and art and craft activities should not involve the use of known allergens. Consider the potential exposure to allergens when consuming food on buses and in cabins.

Appendix 3

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The role and responsibilities of the Principal

The Principal has overall responsibility for implementing The Avenue School Anaphylaxis Management Policy and must...

- Actively seek information to identify students with severe life threatening allergies at enrolment.
- Conduct a risk assessment of the potential for accidental exposure to allergens while the student is in the care of the school.
- Request that parents provide an ASCIA Action Plan (Appendix 1) that has been signed by the student's medical practitioner and has an up to date photograph of the student. Ensure consent has been obtained for display of the photo.
- Ensure that staff are informed and trained in how to recognise and respond to an anaphylactic reaction, including administering an EpiPen®.
- Develop a communication plan to raise student, staff and parent/guardian awareness about severe allergies and the school's policies.
- Ensure that there are procedures in place for informing casual relief teachers of students at risk of anaphylaxis and the steps required for prevention and emergency response.
- Allocate time, to discuss, practise and review the school's management strategies for students at risk of anaphylaxis.
- Encourage ongoing communication between parents/guardians and staff about the current status of the student's allergies, the school's policies and their implementation.
- Review Student's Anaphylaxis Management Plan (Appendix 1A) annually with parents/guardians, or whenever circumstances change.
- Maintain an up-to-date register of students at risk of anaphylaxis, including checks of EpiPens® (not cloudy) at the start of each term and their expiry dates.
- Display all relevant student ASCIA Action Plans (Appendix 1) in reception and staff office on each site.

- Provide information to all staff so that they are aware of the students who are at risk of anaphylaxis, the students' allergies, the school's management strategies and first aid procedures.
- Arrange annual training and a briefing each semester and record the dates and participants.
- Replace the generic EpiPen® before it expires.
- Arrange post-incident support to students and staff, if appropriate.
- Raise staff, student and community awareness of severe allergies

The role and responsibilities of all staff at The Avenue School

The Avenue School staff members have a duty to take steps to protect students from risks of injury that are reasonably foreseeable.

Staff must:

- Know the identity of students who are at risk of anaphylaxis.
- Understand the causes, symptoms, and treatment of anaphylaxis.
- Be trained in how to recognise and respond to an anaphylactic reaction, including administering an EpiPen®.
- Know The Avenue School's first aid emergency procedures and what their role is in responding to an anaphylactic reaction in line with training.

The role and responsibilities of parents/guardians of a student at risk of anaphylaxis

Parents/Guardians must:

- Inform the school, either at enrolment or diagnosis, of the student's allergies, and whether the student has been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis.
- Obtain information from the student's medical practitioner about their condition and any medications to be administered. Inform school staff of all relevant information and concerns relating to the health of the student.
- Contact the Principal to develop the student's Anaphylaxis Management Plan.
- Provide an ASCIA Action Plan, or copies of the plan to the school that is signed by the student's medical practitioner and has an up-to-date photograph.
- Provide the EpiPen® and any other medications to the school.
- Replace the EpiPen® before it expires.
- Assist staff in planning and preparation for the student prior to all school related activities.
- Supply alternative food options for the student when needed.
- Inform staff of any changes to the student's emergency contact details.
- Participate in reviews of the student's Anaphylaxis Management Plan, e.g. when there is a change to the student's condition or at an annual review.

Appendix 4: EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In case of an emergency the location and availability of life saving information and equipment must be known and procedures for storage must be followed.

ITEM	STORAGE DETAILS	LOCATION AT THE SCHOOL
Student Medical Alert Register - detailing students at risk of anaphylaxis	Held within folder named Student Alert Register	First Aid Cupboard at Reception Ask Reception Staff for help.
Student's ASCIA Action Plan	Copy for display	Displayed inside door of First Aid Cupboard and on Staff Office notice board
	Copy for Emergency action	Held in with Student's spare Epipen.
Student's own Spare Epipen	Stored in zip storage box and clearly labelled with student's name and expiry date	First Aid Cupboard at Reception Ask Reception Staff for help
Emergency Generic Epipen	Stored in zip storage box and clearly labelled GENERIC, with expiry date	First Aid Cupboard at Reception Ask Reception Staff for help
First Aid materials and Equipment.	Items labelled and available on shelves	First Aid Cupboard at Reception Ask Reception Staff for help

ITEM	STORAGE DETAILS	LOCATION WHEN OFF-SITE
Student's own Epipen® First Aid materials and Equipment.	The student must carry their own Epipen®.	The teacher in charge must ensure the student is carrying their Epipen.
The student's back-up Epipen	If not required to be carried the student's back-up Epipen will be stored in zip storage box, clearly labelled with expiry date.	Check expiry date Portable First Aid kit
	If required, the student can carry their back-up Epipen.	Student is responsible for carrying their own back-up Epipen.
ASCIA plan	Held with the student's back-up Epipen in zip storage box or Held with Student Medical Information in folder	Portable First Aid kit with assigned staff member taking responsibility
Student Medical Alert Information	Held with Student Medical Information in folder	Portable First Aid kit with assigned staff member taking responsibility
Emergency Generic Epipen	Stored in zip storage box and clearly labelled GENERIC, with expiry date	Teacher in charge and Principal to ascertain if Generic Pen is to be taken off-site. Consideration given to safety of all students at risk of anaphylaxis on and off-site in the same timeframe and number of generic Epipens available.

MILD TO MODERATE ALLERGIC REACTION

- Swelling of lips, face eyes.
- Hives or welts.
- Abdominal pain, vomiting.

ACTION

- Stay with the student and call for help.
- Follow instructions provided on the ASCIA action plan.
- Apply general First Aid procedures.
- Give medications as prescribed.
- Locate EpiPen®.
- Contact parent/guardian.

ANAPHYLAXIS (SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTION)

- Difficulty/noisy breathing.
- Swelling of tongue.
- Swelling/tightness in throat.
- Difficulty talking and /or hoarse throat.
- Wheeze or persistent cough.
- Loss of consciousness and/ or collapse.

ACTION

In the case of an anaphylactic reaction in the classroom:

- Ring 000 immediately.
- Teacher or staff member stays' with individual to reassure them.
- Teacher or staff member alerts Reception/Office (ring) or sends another student to Reception/Office to get EpiPen® and the individual's ASCIA Plan.
- Follow individual's ASCIA Plan.
- Apply general First Aid procedures.
- Parent/guardians notified.
- Principal (or next in charge) notified.

In the case of an anaphylactic reaction outdoors, on or off premises:

- Call 000 immediately.
- Teacher/staff member at the scene stays with the individual.
- Teacher/staff member contacts reception/office for EpiPen® and individual's ASCIA Plan.
- Follow individual's ASCIA Plan.
- Apply general First Aid procedures.
- Parent/guardians notified.
- Principal (or next in charge) notified.