



# ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

## PURPOSE

To explain to Mortlake 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 Mortlake 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

Mortlake 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 medications.

## Symptoms

Sights and symptoms of a mild to moderate allergic reactions 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 Mortlake 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 Mortlake 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 Mortlake 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
- Mortlake College can 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 is 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 allergy 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 Principal and Health and Safety Representative are 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 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 – (See Appendix A)

'General Use' Adrenaline Autoinjector (s) are stored in insulated bags with a copy of each student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan and ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis in the First Aid room and in the cupboard in the office of the Activity Centre.

Year 7-12 students: A copy of each student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be stored with their ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis in the students school bag. Students are encouraged to keep their adrenaline autoinjectors on their person. Adrenaline autoinjectors must be labelled with the student's name.

The 'original' copy of each student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be stored with their ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis in the First Aid Room.

### Risk Minimisation Strategies

Risk Management and prevention strategies that Mortlake College will put in place for all relevant in-school and out-of-school settings which include the following:

- All teachers and staff will be informed about students with Anaphylaxis in their class, including casual relief teachers and specialist classes.
- Legislation and policy sets out that all Victorian school staff working with a child or young person who is at risk of an anaphylactic reaction are required to undertake anaphylaxis training.
- All staff will complete their ASCIA e-training & complete a competency in using an autoinjector tested within 30 days of completing the online course. This is renewed every 2 years.
- Mortlake College staff are given an anaphylaxis briefing every 6 months regarding the students at Mortlake College with anaphylaxis.
- All staff are to notify the office of bee hives or wasp nests in the school grounds, for removal by tradespeople.
- Students with anaphylaxis to insect bites are encouraged to wear long shirts, hats and shoes during recess and lunchtimes
- 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 picking up papers or rubbish in the playground
- Students will be given annually an age appropriate education session about calling ambulances for anaphylaxis
- For special events, including incursions, sports & cultural days, fetes or class parties, excursions and camps, co-ordinators will discuss specific prevention strategies if required with parent.

## Adrenaline Autoinjectors for General Use:

Mortlake College will maintain 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.

Adrenaline autoinjectors for general use will be stored in the First Aid room and Activity Centre and labelled "general use".

The Principal will purchase Adrenaline Autoinjector (s) for General Use (purchased by the school) and as a back up to those supplied by Parents.

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

- the number of students enrolled at Mortlake College 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
- the weight of the students at risk of anaphylaxis to determine the correct dosage of adrenaline autoinjector/s to purchase.

## 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 First Aid Officers in the First Aid room

For camps, excursions and special events, a designated First Aid Officer (The minimum acceptable level of training must have completed a recognised first aid training course that meets the requirements of HLTAID011 – Provide First Aid (Release 1) and HLTAID009 – Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (Release 1). Basic First Aid training (HLTAID011) must be completed every 3 years, while a refresher course in CPR (HLTAID009) must be completed annually) 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"><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 general use autoinjector, and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan, stored at First Aid room or Activity Centre Office.</li></ul> |

|    |   |
|----|---|
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <li>• Alert General Office / First Aid Officers</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> <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> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Administer an Anapen® 500, Anapen® 300, or Anapen® Jr.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pull off the black needle shield</li> <li>• Pull off grey safety cap (from the red button)</li> <li>• Place needle end firmly against the student's outer mid-thigh at 90 degrees (with or without clothing)</li> <li>• Press red button so it clicks and hold for 10 seconds</li> <li>• Remove Anapen®</li> <li>• Note the time the Anapen is administered</li> </ul> <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.

Schools can use either the EpiPen® **and Anapen® on any student** suspected to be experiencing an anaphylactic reaction, regardless of the device prescribed in their ASCIA Action Plan.

Where possible, schools should consider using the correct dose of adrenaline autoinjector depending on the weight of the student. However, in an emergency if there is no other option available, any device should be administered to the student.

*[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 Mortlake P-12 College's website so that parents and other members of the school community can easily access information about Mortlake P-12 College's anaphylaxis management procedures. The parents and carers of students who are enrolled at Mortlake P-12 College and are identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis will also be provided with a copy of this policy.

The Principal and/or Anaphylaxis Management Supervisors is responsible for ensuring that all relevant staff, including casual relief staff, canteen staff and volunteers are aware of this policy and Mortlake College'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 (paper copy for their records), their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction and where required, the identity of students at risk.

The Principal and/or Anaphylaxis Management Supervisors 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:

- All School Staff will be appropriately trained in Anaphylaxis Management.
- Principal will delegate at least 3 staff members to be School Anaphylaxis Supervisors and undertake Course in *Verifying the Correct Use of Adrenaline Autoinjector Devices 22303VIC*. This competency is valid for 3 years.

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.

Mortlake College uses the following training course [e.g. ASCIA eTraining course (with 22579VIC, or 22578VIC or 10710 NAT)].

[Note, for details about approved staff training modules, refer to chapter 5 of the [Anaphylaxis Guidelines](#)]

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 [insert role, i.e. Principal or School Anaphylaxis Supervisor]. 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 Mortlake College who is at risk of anaphylaxis, the Principal and/ or School Anaphylaxis Supervisor 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 and on the OHS Training Planning and will be on display on the OHS Board in the staff room at Mortlake College.

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](#)

## REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

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       | March 2023                   |
| Approved by                | Principal – Sean Fitzpatrick |
| Next scheduled review date | March 2024                   |



## MORTLAKE COLLEGE FIRST AID LOCATIONS







## Anaphylaxis Management Supervisors

| Staff member Surname | Staff First name | Expiry Month | Expiry - Year |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| ROBERTSON            | Cherie           | October      | 2025          |
| BOURKE               | Carmel           | October      | 2025          |
| JENKINS              | Dot              | October      | 2025          |