

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

PURPOSE

To explain to Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre (Blackwood) families, 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 Blackwood is compliant with Ministerial Order 706 and the Department's guidelines for anaphylaxis management.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- all staff, including visiting teachers, 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

Blackwood Campus Statement

BSSOEC 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 auto injector for use in an emergency. Anyone can use them in an emergency.

Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans

All students attending Blackwood who are diagnosed as being at risk of suffering from an anaphylactic reaction by a medical practitioner must have an **Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan**. When notified

of an anaphylaxis diagnosis, Home School 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 has consent to attend 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 Blackwood Staff as part of the program planning procedures.
- immediately inform the Home school of enrolment 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 Home school of enrolment and each time it is reviewed
- provide the Home school of enrolment with a current adrenaline auto injector for the student that is not expired

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 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 an annual basis by the Home School in consultation with the student's parents/carers. The plan will also be reviewed and, where necessary, updated by the home school before the student attends a Blackwood program

Blackwood 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 Blackwood.

Location of plans and adrenaline autoinjectors

All auto injectors and Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans are located with designated staff member from the school of enrolment. Staff member to be specified before arriving at Blackwood.

A copy of the student's Individual ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis is on display in the Blackwood staff office and The student's adrenaline auto injector is carried by a designated home school staff member who is working with them at all times. Adrenaline auto injectors must be labelled with the student's name.

Each group attending Blackwood will bring a minimum of 1 general EpiPen and be carried by first aid qualified staff member on the program.

Risk Minimisation Strategies

RISK MANAGEMENT FOOD ALLERGY	
ON CAMPUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All staff and students are reminded to regularly wash their hands. ● The school campus community is made aware of what the student is allergic to. <p>Food rewards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discouraged in place of non-food rewards. ● Remind students not to share food including during morning tea and lunch breaks. <p>Class rotations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All teachers will need to consider children at risk of anaphylaxis when planning rotational activities.
PRIOR TO ATTENDING Blackwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents of children at risk of anaphylaxis may consider having a face to face meeting with home school staff and/or Blackwood staff prior to the program to discuss the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School's emergency response procedures outlining roles and responsibilities of the teachers in policing prevention strategies and their roles & responsibilities in the event of an anaphylactic reaction. ● Confirm mobile phone network coverage for standard mobile phones prior to program. Telstra coverage is reliable at Blackwood however, other network providers are not. Landlines are available at all accommodation sites. ● Parents or guardians should be encouraged to provide two adrenaline auto injectors along with the ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis and any other required medications whilst the child is on the program. The second adrenaline auto injector should be returned to the parents/guardian on returning from a program. ● Clear advice should be communicated to all parents or guardians prior to the program regarding what foods are not allowed. ● Parents or guardians of children at risk of anaphylaxis and school staff need to communicate about food for the duration of the program. ● Parents or guardians should also communicate directly with the catering staff and discuss food options/menu, food brands, cross contamination risks to determine the safest food choices for their child. ● Parents or guardians may prefer to provide all child's food for the duration of the program. This is the safest option. If this is the case, storage and heating of food needs to be organised. ● Awareness of cross contamination of allergens in general (e.g. during storage, preparation and serving of food). ● Discussion of the menu for the duration of the program including morning and afternoon teas and snacks. ● Games and activities should not involve the use of peanut or tree nut products or any other known allergens. ● Program organisers need to consider domestic activities that they assign to children on a program. It is safer to have the child with food allergy set tables, for example, rather than clear plates and clean up.

Adrenaline auto injectors for general use

Blackwood will maintain a supply of adrenaline auto injector(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 auto injectors for general use will be stored in the Staff office and labelled "general use".

The principal is responsible for arranging the purchase of adrenaline auto injectors for general use, and will consider:

- the number of students accessing BSSOEC at risk of anaphylaxis
- the accessibility of adrenaline auto injectors supplied by parents
- the availability of a sufficient supply of auto injectors for general use in different locations at the school, as well as at camps, excursions and events

the limited life span of adrenaline auto injectors, and the need for general use adrenaline auto injectors 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 campus' general first aid procedures, emergency response procedures and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan.

A home school designated staff member will be responsible for maintaining a list of students at risk of anaphylaxis attending Blackwood, together with their Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans and adrenaline auto injectors, where appropriate. This list will be provided to Blackwood as part of the Program Planning process

If a student experiences an anaphylactic reaction at Blackwood staff must:

Step	Action
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lay the person flat● Do not allow them to stand or walk● If breathing is difficult, allow them to sit● Be calm and reassuring● Do not leave them alone● Seek assistance from another staff member to locate the student's adrenaline auto injector and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan, stored with the designated staff member.● If a student appears to be experiencing a first time reaction, follow steps 2 to 5 using available general EpiPen.
2.	Administer an EpiPen or EpiPen Jr (if the student is under 20kg) <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Remove from plastic container● Form a fist around the EpiPen and pull off the blue safety release (cap)● Place orange end against the student's outer mid-thigh (with or without clothing)● Push down hard until a click is heard or felt and hold in place for 3 seconds● Remove EpiPen● Note the time the EpiPen is administered● Retain the used EpiPen to be handed to ambulance paramedics along with the time of administration
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 auto injectors 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.

Communication Plan

This policy will be available on the Blackwood website so that families and other members of the school community can easily access information about Blackwood's anaphylaxis management procedures.

The Campus Principal is responsible for ensuring that all relevant staff, including casual relief staff and volunteers are aware of this policy and Blackwood'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. Information about the student will be located in the Blackwood office.

Staff training

Staff at Blackwood 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.

The following Blackwood Staff have been trained in HLTAID004 Provide an emergency first aid response in an education and care setting: Tony Bellette, Abbey Dawkins, David Bulluss and Bruce Hallett.

The assistant principal will train staff on anaphylaxis management and how to use an auto injector twice annually

- this policy
- the causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis
- the identities of students with a medical condition that relates to allergy 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 student who is at risk of anaphylaxis accesses BSSOEC, the Campus Principal will develop an interim plan in consultation with the student's Home School and ensure that appropriate Blackwood 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](#)

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

This policy was last updated July 2020 and is scheduled for review July 2021.

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.