



SAFETY ALERT

TO:

REGIONAL DIRECTORS
SCHOOL EDUCATION DIRECTORS
PRINCIPALS
WHS LIAISON MANAGERS
STUDENT SUPPORT COORDINATORS
STUDENT SERVICES STAFF

SAFETY ALERT No 35

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NSW GOVERNMENT PRESCHOOLS AND SCHOOLS CONCERNING THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR ANAPHYLAXIS

A copy of this safety alert should be provided to all school staff (including casual staff) and volunteers working in schools and preschools.

This safety alert is intended to remind schools and preschools of some key requirements if it becomes necessary to respond to a student who has an anaphylactic reaction at school.

If a student is showing symptoms of anaphylaxis then:

1. The Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy Inc (ASCIA) action plan for anaphylaxis and the adrenaline auto-injector (an EpiPen or Anapen) should be brought to the student and the action plan followed.
2. If the EpiPen or Anapen should be administered, the time of administration should be noted.
3. If the student has been diagnosed with asthma as well as anaphylaxis and has been prescribed asthma reliever medication **the EpiPen or Anapen should be administered before the student is given asthma reliever medication.**
4. An ambulance should be called.
5. If the student gets worse or shows no signs of improvement after 5 minutes, a second EpiPen or Anapen should be administered to the student if available.

6. Another student's EpiPen or Anapen can be used for this purpose if required.

Some frequently asked questions about the emergency response to anaphylaxis follow:

How do I know if a student is having an anaphylactic reaction?

Any one of the following are signs of anaphylaxis:

- difficult/noisy breathing
- swelling of tongue
- swelling/tightness in throat
- difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice
- wheezing or persistent cough
- persistent dizziness or collapse
- pale and floppy (young children)

What is an ASCIA action plan for anaphylaxis?

It is a special form signed by the doctor that provides instructions about what response should be made if the student has an anaphylactic reaction at school as well as confirming allergens to be avoided and how to use an adrenaline auto injector.

As it is the emergency response plan for anaphylaxis it should be part of the student's individual health care plan.

More information about ASCIA action plans can be found at <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/anaphylaxis/emergencycare/index.php>

Who provides the ASCIA action plan and the adrenaline auto injector (EpiPen or Anapen) to the pre-school or school?

The parents of each student diagnosed with anaphylaxis should provide the school with an ASCIA action plan for anaphylaxis signed by the doctor for that student and an adrenaline auto-injector.

Where should the adrenaline autoinjector and ASCIA action plan be kept by the school?

The adrenaline autoinjector and the ASICA action plan should be kept together in an accessible spot in the school.

Why is it important to note the time when the adrenaline autoinjector is administered?

If an adrenaline autoinjector is administered, it is important to note the time of administration because if there is no change in the student's condition after 5 minutes or he or she gets worse (i.e. there is no response) a second adrenaline autoinjector should be administered to the student if available.

Information about the time that a student has been administered an adrenaline autoinjector should be provided to ambulance personnel when they arrive at the school.

Could using another student's adrenaline autoinjector put that student at risk?

If another student's prescribed adrenaline autoinjector has been administered and there are concerns that the other student may be placed at risk, he or she can be transported to hospital.

Who pays for the ambulance?

Schools are reminded that the NSW Ambulance Cover assists schools by meeting the cost of ambulance accounts for students where an ambulance is called for a student illness or injury to a NSW government school or a school related activity. For further information refer to the facts sheet on this scheme which is available at:

<https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/adminandmanage/ohands/bulletins/index.htm>

Where can I get more information about anaphylaxis?

There are a range of support materials and advice available to support schools on the following Departmental internet and intranet sites:

Public Schools Website

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/anaphylaxis/index.php>

Work Health and Safety Directorate:

<https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/adminandmanage/ohands/safeworklearn/riskmanage/anaphylaxis/index.htm>

Information about ASCIA *Action Plans for Anaphylaxis* can be found on the Department's website at:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/anaphylaxis/index.php>

Please contact your regional student support officer for further advice and assistance.

Marnie O'Brien

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6 August 2012