

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Newcomb Primary School on 52484176.

PURPOSE

To explain to Newcomb Primary School 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 Newcomb Primary School 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

Newcomb Primary School will fully comply with Ministerial Order 706 and the associated guidelines published by the Department of Education and Training.

Anaphylaxis

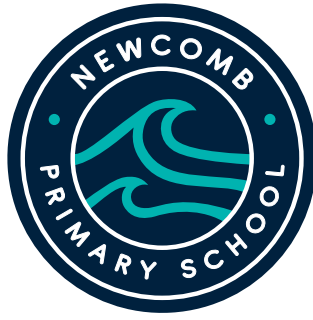
Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that occurs after exposure to an allergen. The most common allergens for school-aged children are nuts, eggs, cow's milk, fish, shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication.

Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of a mild to moderate allergic reaction 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 Newcomb Primary School 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 Newcomb Primary School is responsible for developing a plan in consultation with the student's parents/carers.

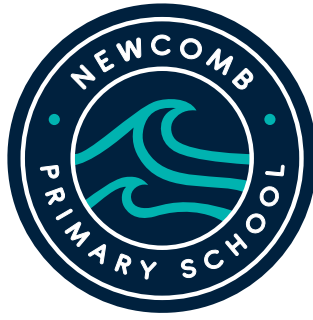
Where necessary, an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be in place as soon as practicable after a student enrolls at Newcomb Primary School and where possible, before the student's first day.

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
- 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 has 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 allergies 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 Management Plans

A student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management 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

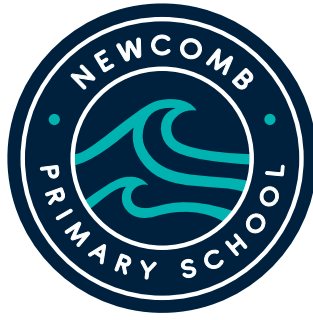
A copy of each student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be stored with their ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis in the classroom, school office and sickbay. The student's adrenaline auto injector will be kept in the school office. Adrenaline auto injectors must be labelled with the student's name. Where there is no student in the school with diagnosed anaphylaxis the 'general use' autoinjector will be kept at the school sickbay.

Risk Minimisation Strategies

It is important to remember that minimisation of the risk of anaphylaxis is everyone's responsibility: the School (including the Principal and all School Staff), Parents, students and the broader school community. Parents have important obligations under the Order (and the School's Anaphylaxis Management Policy).

Parents must:

- communicate their child's allergies and risk of anaphylaxis to the School at the earliest opportunity, preferably on enrolment;
- continue to communicate with School Staff and provide up to date information about their child's medical condition;
- provide the School Staff with an ASCIA Action Plan;



- participate in yearly reviews of their child's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan; and
- ensure that their child has an Adrenaline EpiPen® that is current and not expired at all times.

The School will:

In School Settings (Classrooms):

- Keep a copy of the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan in the classroom. Be sure the ASCIA Action Plan is easily accessible even if the Adrenaline EpiPen® is kept in another location.
- Liaise with Parents about food-related activities ahead of time.
- Use non-food treats where possible, but if food treats are used in class Parents of students with food allergy provide a treat box with alternative treats. Treat boxes should be clearly labeled and only handled by the student.
- Never give food from outside sources to a student who is at risk of anaphylaxis.
- Have regular discussions with students about the importance of washing hands, eating their own food and not sharing food.
- Casual relief teachers, specialist teachers and volunteers will be made aware of any students at risk of anaphylaxis, the location of each student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan and Adrenaline EpiPen®, the School's Anaphylaxis Management Policy, and each individual person's responsibility in managing an incident i.e. seeking a trained staff member.

Yard:

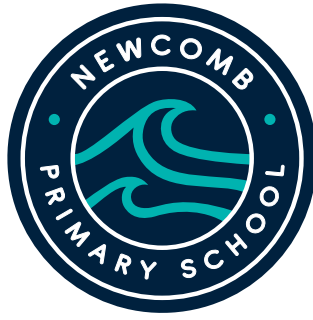
- Sufficient School Staff on yard duty must be trained in the administration of the EpiPen® and to be able to respond quickly to an anaphylactic reaction if needed.
- A Communication Plan is in place so the student's medical information and medication can be retrieved quickly if a reaction occurs in the yard.
- All yard duty bags carry identity cards displaying a photograph of each student/s at risk of anaphylactic reaction. This card is to be sent to notify the office of an anaphylactic reaction in the school yard and that their EpiPen® is required immediately.
- Yard duty staff must be able to identify, by face, those students at risk of an allergic reaction.

Special Events (i.e. sporting events, incursions, class parties etc.):

- Sufficient School Staff supervising the special event are to be trained in the administration of an EpiPen® and are able to respond quickly to an anaphylactic reaction if required.
- School Staff should consult with Parents in advance to either develop an alternative food menu or request the Parents to send a meal for the student.
- Parents of other students are to be informed in advance about foods that may cause allergic reactions in students at risk of anaphylaxis and request that they avoid providing students with treats whilst they are at School or at a special School event.

Out of School Settings (Excursions)

- All School Staff members present during camps/excursions are to be aware of the identity of any students attending who are at risk of anaphylaxis and be able to identify them by face.
- Parents are provided the opportunity to accompany their child on camps / excursions.



- A School Staff member or team of School Staff trained in the recognition of anaphylaxis and the administration of the Adrenaline EpiPen® must accompany any student at risk of anaphylaxis on trips or excursions.
- An EpiPen® is to be taken on all Excursions and out of school activities.

Camps and Remote Settings:

- Prior to engaging a camp owner/operator's services the School will make enquiries as to whether it can provide food that is safe for anaphylactic students. If a camp owner/operator cannot provide this confirmation the School will consider using an alternative service provider.
- NPS will not sign any written disclaimer or statement from a camp owner/operator that indicates the owner/operator is unable to provide food, which is safe for students at risk of anaphylaxis.
- The student's EpiPen®, Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan, including the ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis and a mobile phone will be taken on camp. If mobile phone access is not available, an alternative method of communication in an emergency will be considered, e.g. a satellite phone.
- NPS have an EpiPen® for General Use to be kept in the first aid kit and including this as part of the Emergency Response Procedures.
- The EpiPen® will remain close to the student and School Staff who should be aware of its location at all times.

Adrenaline autoinjectors for general use

Newcomb Primary School will maintain a supply of adrenaline autoinjectors 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 at the school sickbay and labelled "general use".

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

- the number of students enrolled at Newcomb Primary School 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 Sharon Willis/Colleen Morphett (BM/Administration) and stored at the school office and sickbay. For camps, excursions and special events, a designated staff member 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"> • 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 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 the school office, student's classroom or sickbay. • If the student's plan is not immediately available, or they appear to be experiencing a first time reaction, follow steps 2 to 5
2.	<p>Administer an EpiPen or EpiPen Jr</p> <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 <p>OR</p> <p>Administer an Anapen® 500, Anapen® 300, or Anapen® Jr.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull off the black needle shield • Pull off grey safety cap (from the red button) • Place needle end firmly against the student's outer mid-thigh at 90 degrees (with or without clothing) • Press red button so it clicks and hold for 3 seconds • Remove Anapen®



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the time the Anapen is administered • Retain the used Anapen 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 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.

Communication Plan

This policy will be available on Newcomb Primary School's website so that parents and other members of the school community can easily access information about Newcomb Primary School's anaphylaxis management procedures. The parents and carers of students who are enrolled at Newcomb Primary School and are identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis will also be provided with a copy of this policy.

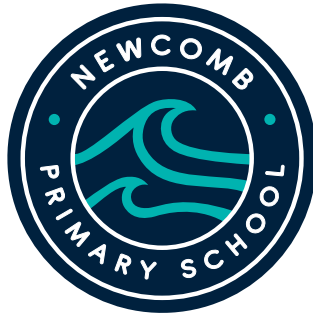
The Principal is responsible for ensuring that all relevant staff, including casual relief staff, canteen staff and volunteers are aware of this policy and Newcomb Primary School's procedures for anaphylaxis management. Casual relief staff and volunteers who are responsible for the care and/or supervision of students who are identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis will also receive a verbal briefing on this policy, their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction and where required, the identity of students at risk.

The Principal 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:

- School staff who conduct classes attended by students who are at risk of anaphylaxis.
- School staff who conduct specialist classes, all canteen staff, admin staff, first aiders and any other member of school staff as required by the principal based on a risk assessment.



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. Newcomb Primary School uses the following training course ASCIA eTraining course (with 22579VIC, or 22578VIC or 10710 NAT).

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 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 Newcomb Primary School who is at risk of anaphylaxis, the Principal 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.

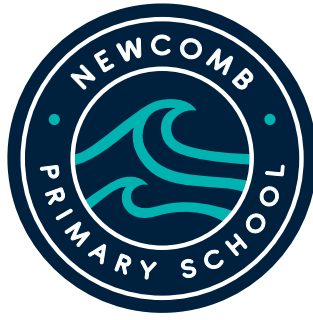
A record of staff training courses and briefings will be maintained through the school's online Emergency Management Plan.

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](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL



Policy last reviewed	June 2025
Approved by	Blanche Denmead, Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 2026

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.