



Anaphylaxis Policy

Context

St Patrick's College is a Catholic day and boarding school for boys in the Edmund Rice tradition, established in 1893. St Patrick's College is committed to providing a caring, supportive, and safe environment where every student has a place, a voice and their story is known. Edmund Rice Education Australia is committed to providing safe and supportive environments where all children and young people entrusted to our care are affirmed in their dignity and worth as a person.

Background

Edmund Rice Education Australia – Victorian Schools Limited (EREA-VSL), as St Patrick's College's governing authority, sets the policy framework for all EREA-VSL schools. These policies have been contextualised for St Patrick's College's particular school environment so that our policies reflect the needs of our students*.

*Student includes any person enrolled in the College, either as a day pupil or as a boarder.

Ministerial Order 706 – Anaphylaxis Management in Schools

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

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

School Statement

St Patrick's College will fully comply with Ministerial Order 706 and the associated guidelines published and amended by the Department from time to time.

In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, the school's first aid and emergency response procedures and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan must be followed.

Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans

The Principal will ensure that an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan is developed, in consultation with the student's parents, for any student who has been diagnosed by a Medical Practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis. The Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls and where possible before their first day of school.

The Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will set out the following:

- Information about the student's medical condition that relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, including the type of allergy/allergies the student has (based on a written diagnosis from a Medical Practitioner);
- 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 in-school and out-of-school settings 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 strategies;
- Information on where the student's medication will be stored;
- The student's emergency contact details;
- An ASCIA Action Plan.

School staff will then implement and monitor the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan.

The student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents in all of the following circumstances:

- Annually;
- If the student's medical condition, insofar as it relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction changes;
- As soon as practicable after the student has an anaphylactic reaction at school;
- When the student is to participate in an overnight activity, such as camps and excursions.

Responsibility of Parents

It is expected that parents will advise the school without delay when a student is diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis. An Anaphylaxis Communication Plan will be developed and placed in agreed locations around the school.

It is the responsibility of the parents to:

- Provide the ASCIA Action Plan;
- Inform the school in writing if their child's medical condition, insofar as it relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, changes and if relevant, provide an updated ASCIA Action Plan;
- Provide an up-to-date photo for the ASCIA Action Plan when that Plan is provided to the school and when it is reviewed;
- Provide the school with an Adrenaline Autoinjector that is current and not expired for their child.

Prevention Strategies

St Patrick's College will put in place Risk Minimisation and Prevention Strategies for all relevant in-school and out-of-school settings which include (but are not limited to) the following:

- During classroom activities (including class rotations, specialist and elective classes);
- In canteens;
- During recess and lunchtimes;
- Before and after school;
- Special events including incursions, sports, excursions and camps.

School Management and Emergency Response

The following procedures for emergency response to anaphylactic reactions include the following:

- A complete and up to date list of students identified as having a medical condition that relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction;
- Details of Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans and ASCIA Action Plans and where these can be located whilst:
 - in all school buildings and sites including gymnasiums and halls;
 - on school excursions;
 - on school camps; and
 - at special events conducted, organised or attended by the school.
 - Information about the storage and accessibility of Adrenaline Autoinjectors;
 - How communication with School staff, students and Parents is to occur in accordance with a communications plan.

Adrenaline Autoinjectors for General Use

The Principal will oversee the purchase of Adrenaline Autoinjector(s) for general use (purchased by the College) and as a back-up to those supplied by parents.

The Principal will determine the number of additional Adrenaline Autoinjector(s) required. In doing so, will take into account the following relevant considerations:

- The number of students enrolled at the College who have been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis;
- The accessibility of Adrenaline Autoinjectors that have been provided by parents of students who have been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis;
- The availability and sufficient supply of Adrenaline Autoinjectors for general use in specified locations at the school, including First Aid office.
- In the school yard, and at excursions, camps and special events conducted or organised by the school; and
- The College purchased adrenaline Autoinjectors for general use have a limited life, usually expiring within 12-18 months, and will need to be replaced at the school's expense, either at the time of use or expiry, whichever is first.

Communication Plan

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that a communication plan is developed to provide information to all school staff, students and parents about anaphylaxis and the Colleges anaphylaxis policy.

The school Communication Plan includes strategies for advising school staff, students and parents about how to respond to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in various environments including:

- During normal school activities including in the classroom, in the school yard, in all school buildings and sites including gymnasiums and halls; and
- During off-site or out of school activities, including on excursions, school camps and at special events conducted or organised by the school.

The Communication Plan includes procedures to inform volunteers and casual relief staff of students with a medical condition that relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in their care.

The Deputy Principal will ensure that relevant school staff are:

- Trained, and;
- Briefed at least twice per calendar year.

Staff Training

The following school staff will be appropriately trained:

- School staff who conduct classes that students with a medical condition that relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction; and
- Any further school staff that are determined by the Principal.

The identified school staff will undertake the following training:

- An Anaphylaxis Management Training Course (valid for three years); and
- Participate in a briefing, to occur twice per calendar year (with the first briefing to be held at the beginning of the school year) on:
 - the school's Anaphylaxis Management Policy;
 - the causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis;
 - the identities of the students with a medical condition that relates to an allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, and where their medication is located;
 - How to use an Adrenaline Autoinjector, including hands on practise with a trainer Adrenaline Autoinjector device;
 - The school's general first aid and emergency response procedures; and
 - The location of, and access to, Adrenaline Autoinjector that have been provided by parents or purchased by the school for general use.

The briefing must be conducted by a member of school staff who has successfully completed an Anaphylaxis Management Training Course in the last 12 months. In the event that the relevant training and briefing has not occurred, the Deputy Principal will develop an interim Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan in consultation with the parents of any affected student with a medical condition that relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction. Training will be provided to relevant school staff as soon as practicable after the student enrolls, and preferably before the student's first day at School.

The Deputy Principal will ensure that while the student is under the care or supervision of the College, including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days, there is a sufficient number of staff present who has successfully completed an Anaphylaxis Management Training Course in the three years prior.

Annual Risk Management Checklist

The Deputy Principal will complete an annual Risk Management Checklist as published by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to monitor compliance with their obligations.

Location of Epipens® and Student Photo's

A current up to date photo and Individual Management Plan, generic Epipen and Epipen provided by the parent will be located in the following locations:

ASCIA Plans, Anaphylaxis details of each student with student photos	Generic Epipen Locations	Personal Epipen and Student Individual Management Plan Location
First Aid Office, Main Staff Room - Located on whiteboard (next to yard duty folders), Food Technology - Located next to first aid kit in the preparation room, Gymnasium - Located in Sports office	First Aid Kits in Gymnasium Office, Food Technology Office Library, First Aid Room, Science Prep Office in First Aid Kit, Boatshed.	First Aid Office

Casual Relief Teachers/ Volunteers

Anaphylaxis information will be provided to all Relieving/Volunteer staff regarding students and this will be provided by the First Aid Officer, Director of Administration.

This information will be an Action Plan for Anaphylaxis which will contain the student's photo; name and date of birth, allergens to be avoided, contact details and the action required if the student has a mild or serious reaction.

Responding to an Anaphylactic Reaction

Classrooms

In the event of an anaphylactic reaction in the classroom, the teacher is to immediately implement the student's emergency procedures plan. Two reliable students should be sent to First Aid Office (or closest Epipen location) to bring the Epipen® and/or alert the First Aid Officer. The teacher is to stay with the student who is experiencing the reaction. Where practicable all staff having contact with a student with Anaphylaxis will have completed an accredited Anaphylaxis Course and regular refresher training.

Yard

Teachers should not leave a student who is experiencing an anaphylactic reaction. The Teacher must direct two reliable students to bring the Epipen® and/or contact the First Aid Office so that they may alert the school's First Aid Officer.

Special Event Days, Excursions and Camps

Prior to leaving the school for any event, excursion or camp the teacher in charge will consult with the First Aid Officer to identify any student with Anaphylaxis.

The First Aid Officer will provide a medical Summary identifying the student's anaphylaxis symptoms and the known allergens which may affect him and information regarding any other medical issues. The teacher in charge must ensure affected students have their Epipen with them.

In the event of an anaphylactic reaction away from school; the teacher is to immediately implement the student's emergency procedure plan, call an ambulance, and then notify the school. The Deputy Principal should be notified without delay. They will arrange for parents or guardians to be notified.

Post-incident Action

It is expected that after an incident has occurred and has been resolved, that staff members involved will engage in the following activities:

- Completion of an Incident / Accident Report form including full details of the event and what occurred;
- Collection of the student's personal effects (if he is transported by ambulance and does not have them) for return to school;
- Debrief with students directly involved as witnesses to the event;
- Debrief of staff involved;
- Communication with the Deputy Principal or Principal as appropriate regarding the particulars of the incident, actions taken and outcomes;
- Deputy Principal to discuss with parents (later) what occurred and ask them to seek medical advice on how it may be prevented in future;
- Deputy Principal and First Aid Officer to review the student's individual management plan;
- Implement updated risk prevention strategies (where applicable).

Status of Policy

This policy has been downloaded from CompliSpace, is endorsed by EREA-VSL and is reviewed annually.

Policy owner	St Patrick's College - Ballarat
Approving authority	Principal
Approval date	September 2025
Risk rating	HIGH
Date of next review	January 2027
Publication details	School website

POLICY DATABASE INFORMATION	
Assigned TERA Board Framework	Child Safety
Related policies	Accident Management Policy First Aid Policy OH&S Policy Pastoral Care Policy Student Concussion Policy Supervision (General) Policy Supervision (Yard Duties) Policy