



# Anaphylaxis Management Policy and Procedures

## Introduction

Assumption College is governed by the Board of Marist Schools Australia Limited (MSA Ltd).

Colleges in the Marist tradition exist to make Jesus Christ known and loved through the provision of a Christian education that brings faith, culture and life into harmony. Each College is open to families who are attracted to this approach to education, and whose spiritual, educational and vocational aspirations are reasonably able to be met through the College's programs.

This policy is approved by the MSA Ltd Board, and the College's Principal is delegated the responsibility for implementing the policy at the College.

## Purpose and Objectives

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction. Individuals can have a mild, moderate or severe allergic reaction. Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life-threatening. The most common allergies in school-aged children are peanuts, cow's milk, egg, tree nuts (e.g. cashews and walnuts), wheat, soy, sesame and certain insect bites and stings (particularly bees, wasps, ants and ticks).

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in school is knowledge of students who have been diagnosed as at risk, awareness of allergies and prevention of

exposure to those triggers that cause allergic reactions.

Partnerships between the College and parents/guardians are important in helping students avoid exposure as well as age-appropriate education for students.

Adrenaline given through an adrenaline (epinephrine) autoinjector (such as an EpiPen® or EpiPen® Jr) into the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the first aid treatment for anaphylaxis. Adrenaline autoinjectors are designed for use by laypeople.

It is important to remember that minimisation strategies to help reduce the risk of anaphylaxis are everyone's responsibility, including the College's Principal and all College and Boarding Community staff, parents/guardians, students and the broader College and Boarding Community community.

## **Scope**

This policy applies to all MSA Ltd Colleges in Victoria, including Assumption College.

This policy and procedures includes:

- [Responsibilities](#)
- [Policy](#)
- [Procedures](#)
- [Implementation](#)
- [Breach of this Policy and Procedures](#)
- [Definitions](#)
- [Source of Obligation](#)
- [Related Policies and Procedures](#)
- [Related Forms and Documents](#)
- [References and Resources](#)
- [Policy History and Schedule](#)





## Policy

Assumption College is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and complying with Ministerial Order No. 706: Anaphylaxis Management in Victorian schools and school boarding premises, and the Department of Education and Training's Anaphylaxis Guidelines (DET Guidelines) as amended by the Department from time to time.

The College recognises that while policies and procedures to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction can be developed and maintained, they cannot achieve a completely allergen-free environment.

It is critical that staff can recognise an allergic reaction and a potential anaphylaxis risk and treat it appropriately in an emergency.

It is the College's policy to:

- provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of schooling
- raise awareness of food and insect allergy and the risk of anaphylaxis and the College's anaphylaxis management policy in the College and Boarding Community community
- engage with parents/guardians of each student at risk of anaphylaxis when assessing risks and developing risk minimisation strategies for the student

- ensure that staff have knowledge about allergies, can recognise an allergic reaction including anaphylaxis and understand the College's policy and guidelines and emergency procedures in responding to anaphylaxis.

## **Duty of Care**

The College has a common law duty of care to put in place strategies to manage students at risk of anaphylaxis while they are at the College and the Boarding Community and engaged in College-related and Boarding Community-related activities.

When a student is diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis, the exercise of the College's duty of care requires the development of an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan, which includes an [ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis](#) (emergency response plan) and risk minimisation strategies.

Students at risk of allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, could also be singled out or subjected to bullying behaviour within the wider College and Boarding Community community. As part of the MSA Ltd Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy and Procedures, the College maintains an atmosphere of respectful relationships and actively develops and implements programs for bullying prevention, provides support for any student who is at risk of being bullied and empowers the whole College and Boarding Community community to recognise and respond appropriately to bullying and behave as responsible bystanders.

## **Risk Management Checklist**

The College's Principal or College Anaphylaxis Supervisor completes an annual [Risk Management Checklist](#) included in the [Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Victorian Schools](#), to monitor the College's obligations.

The College regularly checks the Department of Education and Training's Anaphylaxis Management in Schools page to ensure the latest version of the Risk Management Checklist is used.

## **Signage**

ASCIA Action Plans are posted in the staffroom with first aid procedures.

With written permission from parents/carers, it may be appropriate to have a student's name, photo and the foods they are allergic to, displayed in other locations around the College and the Boarding Community.