

Action steps for the parent

It is important that parents⁵ notify the school if their child has an allergy and is at risk of anaphylaxis. This notification should occur either at the time of enrolment, or if the student is already enrolled, as soon after diagnosis as possible. So that the support provided by the school is effective it is important that a partnership is established between the parent and the school to share information and clarify expectations.

It is the role of the parent to:

- promptly notify the principal or their delegated executive staff if they are aware that their child has been diagnosed as being at risk of a severe allergic reaction.
- promptly notify the principal or their delegated executive staff if the health needs of their child change.
- promptly notify the principal or their delegated executive staff if their child has a severe allergic reaction outside of school hours, at home or at another location.
- inform the principal or their delegated executive staff of any other known learning and support needs, including health care needs, disability or learning or behaviour difficulties which may impact on the management of anaphylaxis.
- assist in the development of an individual health care plan for school support of their child's health with the principal or their delegated executive and staff.
- provide the 'Severe Allergies-Information from the doctor' form (Appendix 4) to their child's doctor for completion, and return the completed form to the school.
- provide an ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis completed and signed by the doctor. A new plan is completed by the doctor each time an adrenaline autoinjector is prescribed. It is important that parents provide the school with a copy of the updated plan, or a photocopy of that plan.
- reinforce relevant aspects of the individual health care plan with their child, where practicable, for example if their child comes into contact with an allergen at school they must immediately inform a teacher and, if age appropriate, remind the child of the importance of taking their adrenaline autoinjector to school with them.
- provide the equipment and consumables for carrying out health care support as specified in the student's individual health care plan, including where relevant, the appropriate adrenaline autoinjector (Appendix 12).
- replace the adrenaline autoinjector in a timely manner before it expires or after it has been used.
- provide written requests for the school to administer prescribed medications where necessary. For example some children are prescribed antihistamine or have other health conditions that require administration of prescribed medications.
- talk to their child about the most likely times and places they may be exposed to the allergen and how to avoid it.
- reinforce risk minimisation strategies agreed upon for the school environment with their child, as appropriate.

⁵ In this document the term parent is used to refer to parent, parents or carer or if the student is living independently the student.