

Online Anaphylaxis Training Strategy: A Summary

Victoria is moving to an online model for anaphylaxis training using the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) e-training for Victorian schools. A small number of staff in each school will also undertake a short course to be able to assess other staff's competency in using an autoinjector in person.

It is recommended that ALL Victorian school staff undertake the ASCIA course. The course is available for free online for all Victorian school staff.

What are the legal requirements in relation to Anaphylaxis training for Victorian schools?

- The *Education Training and Reform Act 2006* and Ministerial Order (MO706) prescribe the range of anaphylaxis training courses that school staff can select from and must undertake if they:
 - conduct classes with students with a medical condition relating to allergy and who have the potential for anaphylactic reaction; and/or
 - are identified by the school principal based on their assessment of the risk of an anaphylactic reaction occurring while a student is under their care.
- MO706 and the Departmental Policy have recently been amended to make provision for the ASCIA e-training course and autoinjector competency check training.

Why the change?

- Experts and stakeholders showed wide support for the move to the ASCIA online training model, citing greater:
 - flexibility for school staff to access training at their own convenience, reducing the burden on schools to release staff in large groups to attend face-to-face training
 - quality and consistency of the training and greater capacity to efficiently update course content to reflect evolutions in technology and best practice
 - alignment with NSW and QLD (who already utilise the ASCIA course)
 - capacity and efficiency in meeting the fluctuation in training demand.

What will be the ongoing requirements for schools?

In order to maintain ongoing compliance with MO706 schools will be required to ensure that :

- new or existing staff members who commence working with a child or young person who is at risk of an anaphylactic reaction, undertake the ASCIA e-training course and have their competency in using an autoinjector checked by a **School Anaphylaxis Supervisor**. *Please note it is recommended that all school staff complete the ASCIA e-training course and competency check every two years*
- two **School Anaphylaxis Supervisors** from each campus complete the autoinjector competency check training and make themselves available to staff to undertake the competency checks and deliver the mandatory twice yearly briefings (autoinjector competency check training will need to be refreshed every three years).
- a new **School Anaphylaxis Supervisor** is nominated and trained in the event that existing Supervisors move on, take extended leave or relinquish their role. In the event that there is no one available within a school to undertake the competency checks (due to staff turnover and/or staff awaiting training) schools should work within their networks to identify qualified staff at nearby schools to undertake these checks.

How will the online training strategy be implemented and what do schools need to do to comply with training requirements?

- The Asthma Foundation Victoria has been contracted by the Department to deliver the Course in Verifying the Correct Use of Autoinjectors at no cost to government schools.
- Over Terms 1 and 2, 2016 the Asthma Foundation will contact schools seeking nominations (two staff members from each campus) and to advise of training dates.
- These staff will perform the role of **School Anaphylaxis Supervisor** and be the contact for anaphylaxis management requirements in the schools.
- Once nominated staff have completed the autoinjector competency check training it is recommended that ALL school staff complete the ASCIA e-training course. The course is now available via the ASCIA website at <https://etrainingvic.allergy.org.au>
- To enable a smooth transition, and in the event that a school staff member has not yet completed the autoinjector competency check training, the existing St John Ambulance face-to-face course will continue to be funded and available to Government schools until June 2016. Schools wishing to continue face-to-face training beyond June 2016 may do so at their own costs. *Suggested transition and implementation options for schools are detailed on the reverse side of this hand out.*

A new online training strategy

Legislation and policy set out the training that all Victorian school staff working with a child or young person who is at risk of an anaphylactic reaction are required to undertake.



On advice from experts and stakeholders the Department is implementing a new best practice online training strategy. From Term 1, 2016 school staff will be able to access Departmentally funded ASCIA e-training at their own convenience.



Once staff have completed the ASCIA e-training they will need to have their competency in using an autoinjector tested in person. In Term 1, 2016 every school will be asked to provide the names of 2 staff members from each campus to fulfil the role of **School Anaphylaxis Supervisor**, who will undertake funded auto-injector competency check training, so they can verify the competency of the staff in their school.

