



MALVERN VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

ASTHMA MANAGEMENT POLICY

WELLBEING

RATIONALE

Asthma attacks involve the narrowing of airways making it difficult to breathe. Symptoms commonly include difficulty breathing, wheezy breathing, dry and irritating cough, tightness in the chest and difficulty speaking. Asthma is a chronic health condition affecting approximately 10% of Australian children and teenagers. Asthma is one of the most common reasons for child admissions to hospital and missed days of school. Asthma flare ups can commonly occur while students are at school as a result of a variety of triggers.

AIMS

- To ensure the whole school community (principals, staff, volunteers, parents and carers and students) are aware of their obligations and best practice management of asthma in the school setting
- To provide the necessary information to effectively manage episodes of asthma within the school

IMPLEMENTATION

The Principal/First Aid Officer:

- 1.1 Provide staff with a copy of the school's asthma management policy and ensure staff are aware of asthma management strategies upon employment at the school.
- 1.2 Provide asthma education and first aid training for staff as required.
- 1.3 Provide parents and carers access to the school's asthma policy upon enrolment of their child
- 1.4 Ensure any students with asthma provide an up to date Asthma Management Plan, along with any associated medications before starting school.
- 1.5 Where possible, ensure that all students with asthma have a current written Asthma Plan (must be updated at least annually)
- 1.6 Ensure adequate provision and maintenance of asthma emergency medications including reliever medication and disposable spacers.
- 1.7 Promptly communicate to parents and carers any concerns regarding asthma and students attending the school
- 1.8 Identify and minimise, where possible, triggers of asthma symptoms for students

Staff:

- 2.1 Alert the Principal / First Aid Officer if they have asthma, and if so, provide an Asthma Management Plan and relevant medication to the school.
- 2.2 Be aware of the school's asthma management policy, first aid procedure and the location of medications.
- 2.3 Be aware of students with asthma and where their medication and personal spacers are stored
- 2.4 Identify and minimise, where possible, triggers of asthma symptoms for students
- 2.5 Promptly communicate to the principal, parents and carers any concerns regarding asthma and students enrolled in the school
- 2.6 Ensure action plans and medication is up to date and taken to any offsite excursions / camps.

Parents and Carers:

- 3.1 Inform the school if their child has asthma upon enrolment and provide a signed written asthma plan and any associated medications / spacers to the school, and ensure that it is updated annually.
- 3.2 Read the school's asthma management policy
- 3.3 Communicate any changes to their child's asthma or any concerns about the health of their child

Treatment:

- 4.1 Treat anyone suffering asthma symptoms in accordance with their Asthma Management Plan.
- 4.2 If no plan is available children are to be sat down, reassured, administered 4 puffs of a shaken reliever puffer (Ventolin) delivered via a spacer if necessary – inhaling 4 deep breaths per puff, wait 4 minutes, if necessary administer 4 more puffs and repeat the cycle. An ambulance must be called if there is no improvement after the second 4-minute wait period, or if it is the child's first known attack. Parents must be contacted whenever their child suffers an asthma attack.
- 4.3 Call emergency assistance to attend (000) if:
 - The person's asthma symptoms are severe
 - The person suddenly stops breathing
 - The person's asthma symptoms continue to worsen
 - There is no asthma action/care plan for the person
 - Blue/grey reliever medication is not available
 - You are unsure what is causing the breathing difficulty

REFERENCES

School Policy Advisory Guide

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/Pages/spag.aspx>

Asthma Foundation – Victoria

<http://www.asthma.org.au/Resources/SchoolsandChildrensServices.aspx>

EVALUATION

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

RATIFIED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL: 2015

TO BE REVIEWED: 2018