



Thunderstorm Asthma Policy

Rational:

The school will respond effectively in the event of a governmental alert of asthma/hayfever thunderstorm warning.

The policy section for multiple asthma/hay fever presentations is to be activated in the event of multiple cases of asthma/hayfever attack within the school.

Risk minimization and communication

Students with asthma and hayfever, will be flagged on the school compass site via a medical alert (red cross symbol) attached to a student's name on all rolls.

Medical updates and changes to student medical details will be updated as part of the school Asthma Management policy.

Communication of Thunderstorm Asthma/Hayfever updates to emergency procedures will be included in the yearly briefs to all teachers by the first aid officer. All school documentation will reflect any change.

School Performance of Thunderstorm Asthma/Hayfever emergencies carried out at the school will be evaluated post event and undergo annual review. Recommended changes that have been identified will be implemented and communicated to the school community.

Implementation:

Staff preparation

All staff are required to complete asthma management training as per asthma management policy.

All staff will be informed of the protocols and actions required in the event of an asthma-hay fever thunderstorm event.

All staff will be able to locate information of school policy and emergency procedure. This is available on the school compass staff and parent portal and the school web site.

Education of thunderstorm asthma/hayfever emergency procedure will be included in the yearly briefings to staff.

Staff will be trained in the roles and responsibilities of key personnel during the emergency period. Which begins at the governmental alert of high danger of asthma-hay fever thunderstorm and continues until the all clear is given by the principal.

Student and parent preparation

It will be the responsibility of the parents/guardian to ensure the school is provided with a current management plan as developed in consultation with their general practitioner as well as the medications prescribed in the plan.



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The student is responsible for carrying their salbutamol inhaler, antihistamines or any other medication required as per their management plan, with them at all times.

Students and parents are required to read and acknowledge they understand the asthma/hay fever thunderstorm and related asthma policies located on the school compass staff and parent portal and the school web site.

It is recommended that parents of students with identified asthma/hay fever conditions consider keeping those students at home on the days an asthma/hay fever thunderstorm alert has been issued.

Principal and the principal team preparation

The principal and the principal team will be required to be aware of current governmental guidelines and recommendations in the event of an asthma-hay fever thunderstorm alert.

The principal and the principal team will ensure the required training of all staff, emergency equipment and facilities are current and available.

The principal and the principal team will oversee the activation of the communication and management strategies advised in this policy (see appendix A communication plan)

First aid officer preparation

The first aid officer is required to keep current with governmental policy, procedures and evidence based information regarding the prevention and management of an asthma-hay fever thunderstorm event.

The first aid officer is responsible for ensuring all staff are advised on where and how to access training as per asthma management policy including the protocols to be followed in the event of an asthma-hay fever thunderstorm event.

The first aid officer is responsible for ensuring a current register of all those with asthma, pollen and other allergies.

The first aid officer is responsible for the maintenance of the management plans currency and associated medications as prescribed on the plan. This includes first aid stations and maintenance of website information.

The first aid officer is responsible for monitoring weather conditions and being advised by the principal and principal team of impending threats of hazardous weather conditions.

Environmental and facility risk management

Refer to asthma management policy for the environmental measures outlined to prevent asthma and allergic hay fever.

Facilities and first aid equipment to be maintained as per asthma management policy.

All gardening activities that may cause release of pollen into the environment including grass cutting will cease during asthma/hay fever thunderstorm alert and on extreme pollen count weather conditions.



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Procedure and Management:

In the event of an asthma-hay fever thunderstorm alert being issued by the government and multiple cases of asthma/hayfever attack within the school:

1. Activate communication plan (see appendix A)
2. Remove all students from environmental hazard – Gymnasium is the designated area for multiple casualties and those identified at risk. Those at risk can be identified on compass rolls and the remaining students are to
3. Close windows (? Air-conditioning off in gymnasium – check with maintenance)
4. Other students to remain indoors under the supervision of teaching staff.
5. The first aid officer is to report to gymnasium as well as one or more personnel as nominated at the time by the principal or the principal team.
6. The first aid officer will access a trolley to transport all student management plans, along with the individual's medications as prescribed, school supplied EpiPen's, salbutamol inhalers, spacers, designated mobile phone and first aid kit.
7. The first aid officer and designated staff will proceed to prepare the gym to receive students.
8. Individual asthma/hayfever management plans and/or asthma first aid as recommended by Asthma Australia will be administered to students experiencing a 'first-time' asthma event.
9. Staff will follow the ambulance Victoria instructions during the triage stage of communication via telephone and whilst waiting for ambulance to arrive.
10. Where a student cannot be mobilized from their current position, the supervising staff member will report the student and emergency to the reception staff. A designated person will be sent for salbutol inhaler, spacer and asthma first aid instructions. If the student is located outside the wheel chair located in the first aid office can be used to transport that student indoors/to the gymnasium.

Communication Plan

Upon Thunderstorm Asthma Alert from Victorian Department of Emergency and in the event of multiple asthma/hay fever reports within the school community constituting a medical emergency

1. The principal and the principal team are notified by the Victorian emergency department of the asthma/hay fever thunderstorm alert
2. Principal issues asthma/hayfever alert to the school community and advises Assistant Principal in charge of emergency management and school operations to communicate to school community via the school compass news feed to stay indoors, cancellation of outdoor sporting activities, cessation of high risk gardening activities and coordinates emergency procedures.
3. The first aid officer, teaching and reception staff will liaise with the assistant principal in charge of emergency management operations by reporting casualties and regularly updating the status of the number and severity of casualties.

In the event of multiple presentations of asthma/hay fever episodes the emergency asthma/hay fever management plan is to be initiated by the assistant principal in charge of emergency management and operations.



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In the event of multiple casualties' policy

1. The assistant principal in charge of emergency management operations will Instruct staff (using the loud speaker system) to implement asthma/hayfever emergency procedure, coordinate communication between school community and the principal and state emergency services if required.
2. Reception staff call 000 and advise of emergency.
3. Teachers not engaged in classroom teaching are to meet in the gym for instructions.
4. Teachers report all affected students to reception staff who will pass on information to the assistant principal in charge of emergency management and operations, notify parents and guardians of the student casualties and liaise with the first aid officer.
5. Ambulance officers issued with mobile number of first aid officer and/or person coordinating emergency procedure who is in attendance at the designated area for all students who are being treated for asthma/hayfever.
6. Principal/Principal team advise governmental department emergency services to report epidemic and liaise with them as to the school's duties as part of the state-wide response.
7. General alert is emailed to all parent's /guardians of current asthma/ hayfever emergency taking place within the school by reception staff.
8. Reception staff are to contact student's parent/ guardian of affected students.
9. All parents/guardians of students affected by asthma/ hayfever are instructed to report to the reception area on arrival at the school where they can be directed to the location of the student at the school or the hospital to which they were transported.

The all clear to the emergency action plan is to be issued by the principal or the principal delegate when all casualties are symptom free or transported to hospital or parent care.

At this time the standard measures taken for the asthma/hay fever thunderstorm alert remain insitu until the threat has passed as advised by the governmental body.

Appendix A. Communication plan in the event of a government asthma/hay fever thunderstorm alert

