

APPENDIX H. Specific health conditions

The Department supports state and national endorsed programs for a range of specific health conditions. For further information refer to [manage student health care needs \(staff only\)](#).

Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis is a severe, allergic reaction which can be life threatening. It must be treated as a medical emergency requiring an immediate response.

The principal implements consistent and practical strategies to support the prevention and emergency management of anaphylaxis which includes:

- identification of students at risk
- the development of a documented plan for students with anaphylaxis which includes an Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) emergency action plan
- verifying that all staff have completed online anaphylaxis training (staff only) every 2 years
- providing staff with access to the ASCIA Anaphylaxis e-refresher training and hands-on practice with an adrenaline trainer device (this is recommended to occur every 6 months)
- establishing procedures for reducing the risk of exposure to known allergens
- establishing procedures for situations that pose additional risk such as when relief staff are present
- establishing procedures for responding to anaphylaxis emergencies
- familiarising staff with documented plans
- verifying that parents have provided an up-to-date adrenaline injector (AI) for students with anaphylaxis
- verifying that up-to-date emergency AIs are available in the first aid kit including a lower dose (junior version) if there are students in the school that weigh less than 20 kilograms.

Under the [School Education Regulations 2000](#), a staff member may, in the course of their employment, administer an AI to a student if the staff member reasonably suspects the child is suffering an anaphylactic reaction, even if there is no consent to the administration of adrenaline.

Anaphylaxis training should be completed in a timely manner, preferably prior to commencing work. For further information on emergency response procedures, refer to [support students with anaphylaxis \(staff only\)](#).

To support peer education and social connection for students with anaphylaxis, schools can access free online resources from the [allergyAWARE](#) resource hub.

Head lice

The principal, in consultation with parents and staff, develop agreed management, communication and education strategies to reduce the impact of head lice infestation. The principal may authorise a member of staff who has volunteered to examine the head of any student to ascertain whether head lice are present.

If head lice are found, students may be given tasks which do not involve close group work but do not necessarily need to be excluded from school. However, the principal has discretion under the [School Education Act 1999](#) to require that a student does not attend or participate in an educational program until parents confirm that a recommended treatment is being undertaken and all head lice have been removed.

Refer to [Respond to head lice cases at your school \(staff only\)](#) for further information.

Prevention of infection

The principal implements consistent and practical strategies to promote effective hygiene including:

- access to soap and facilities for hand washing and drying
- explicit instructions to staff and students for effective hand washing (staff only) and, where relevant, face washing (staff only) – face washing is relevant in instances of trachoma and when directed by a health professional
- standard precautions (staff only) for the control of infection to be used by school staff as a matter of routine
- the regular cleaning of environmental surfaces (staff only) (staff only) to reduce the risk of contamination
- informing students about reducing the spread of infection:
 - through coughing and sneezing etiquette
 - by not sharing eating and drinking utensils.

Hand hygiene and, in some instances, face hygiene is crucial in reducing the transmission of infections. Hand hygiene can also reduce the risk of exposure to common allergens such as peanuts for those in the school community who are anaphylactic.

Communicable disease management

Communicable diseases, also known as infectious diseases, are caused by infectious agents and can be passed from one person or animal to another.

The principal acts in accordance with the advice provided by the Department of Health in managing communicable diseases. The Department of Health's Communicable Disease Guidelines provides information regarding incubation when a student must stay home and advice on which diseases are notifiable and must be reported to the Department of Health's Population/Public Health Units.

If a school is concerned about a communicable disease, such as a cluster of cases or notifiable diseases, principals can contact the local Population/Public Health Unit and seek advice.

Where an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease occurs, the Department of Health will ask the principal to generate a school level report which shows all students who are not up-to-date with immunisations. The Department of Health will advise if those students are required to stay home from school.

Principals are encouraged to monitor WA Health for the latest advice on communicable diseases, such as COVID-19.