

Rationale

Asthma is a chronic health condition affecting approximately 10% of all children and teenagers. Students with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs and when exposed to certain triggers, the airways narrow causing difficulty in breathing.

Aims

All students have quick access to reliever medication to reduce the severity of the asthma attack.

Implementation

1. Overview

1.1. Hazel Glen College recognises the importance of staff education and the implementation of an asthma policy. It is important for both the college and parents/carers to work together to ensure students are safely able to self-manage their asthma where appropriate.

2. Responsibilities – College

- 2.1. To support families to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to asthma management, the college will:
- a) Obtain a written asthma plan for all students diagnosed with asthma upon enrolment or once diagnosed. Asthma plans are to be updated annually or where a child's asthma management plan changes with an updated copy provided to the college for their records.
 - b) Appropriately store medical information and medications in each sub-school or in strategic locations
 - c) Ensure that students healthcare needs are supported and that they feel safe and supported at the college
 - d) Provide and maintain at least two asthma emergency kits with an extra kit required for every 300 students in the college. Ensure expiry date on reliever medication is checked regularly and replaced where required
 - e) Ensure at least one asthma emergency kit is provided on all College excursions, sporting or camp activities
 - f) Ensure that a minimum of 75% of staff undertake Emergency Asthma Management training, provided by The Asthma Foundation of Victoria

3. Responsibilities – College Staff

- 3.1. All college staff will have an understanding of the importance of daily asthma management and will:
- a) Be familiar with the college's asthma management policy
 - b) Have the necessary understanding of the asthma first aid procedure
 - c) Have an awareness and a firm understanding of students with asthma and where

- d) their medication and personal spacers are stored
- e) Know the location of asthma emergency kits
- f) Identify and minimise, where possible, triggers of asthma symptoms for students
- g) Ensure that students with asthma are not discriminated against in any way
- h) Ensure that students with asthma can participate in activities safely and to their fullest abilities

4. Responsibilities – Families

4.1. It is expected that families attending this college will:

- a) Inform the college upon enrolment or once diagnosed, if their child has asthma
- b) Read the college's asthma policy
- c) Provide a signed written asthma plan to the college and ensure that it is updated annually or if their child's asthma management plan changes
- d) Provide a College Camp or Excursion Medical Update form as required
- e) Provide the college with their child's reliever medication along with a spacer (required for 'puffer' medication) for all times the child is attending college related events or activities, unless the child is carrying the medication and spacer for self-management purposes
- f) Ensure expiry date on reliever medication is checked regularly and replaced where required
- g) Educate and support their children in recognising and managing asthma symptoms and knowing when to seek help

5. Asthma Emergency Kits

The College's Asthma Emergency Kits should contain:

- a) Reliever medication
- b) Two (2) small volume spacer devices
- c) Record form and Asthma First Aid instruction card

6. Asthma First Aid

6.1. Follow the written first aid instructions on the student's Asthma Action/Care Plan. If no specific and signed instructions are available, the instructions are unclear, or the person does not have an Asthma Action/Care Plan, begin the first aid procedure immediately (***as authorised by the Department of Education and Training***).

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

Related Policies / Documents

The Royal Children's Hospital
<https://www.rch.org.au/home/>

Asthma videos
https://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact_sheets/asthma-videos/

Department of Education and Training
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/conditionasthma.aspx>

HGC Policies
First Aid
Anaphylaxis
Administration of Medication
Camping
Swimming

Evaluation

This policy was created in term 3 of 2014
This policy was reviewed in Term 3 of 2018
This policy will be reviewed as part of the College's review cycle