

Anaphylaxis Management at Aquatic Centres

There is a need to ensure that first aid and emergency procedures are in place for children/young people who are at risk of anaphylaxis. The environment in which the program operates and the location where these children and young people participate influence the first aid procedures that need to be in place to provide a timely and appropriate emergency response in the event of an allergic/anaphylaxis.

PRIOR to the aquatic session instructors:

Need to be alerted to any child/young person at risk of anaphylaxis.

- **This information needs to appear on their medical consent form which includes Action Plans which identify allergen triggers.**

Should perform a site risk assessment which include;

- **Likelihood of an identified allergen being present and strategies to reduce or minimise the likelihood of exposure;**

For **food** triggers the following should be considered:

- Availability of onsite food (eg canteen, kiosk)
- Whether food is brought by child/young person
- Where and when children/young people eat – set times (eg supervised time or do they graze all day)
- Could contamination of equipment occur.

For **insect venom** triggers the following should be considered:

- Bees congregate around water, wasps around food and ants in vegetation and sand (In South Australia Jumper ants are usually confined to the Hills region).

For **latex** trigger the following should be considered:

- That latex goggles and other equipment are not used by the child
- Latex products can be used by other children but contact with the affected child should be avoided.
- **Ensure adequate supervision for children and young people at risk;**
 - Number of children/young people in the group (eg should the group be smaller to accommodate the management of the child/young person)
 - Age/maturity of the child/young person/s at risk
 - Support available from other staff (eg instructors/teachers/SSOs), including those trained in anaphylaxis management
 - Location of the activity (eg where is or should the activity take place to ensure adequate supervision). Trained person to accompany the child/young person on the water or, be in the rescue boat if this option is available and determined to be the most appropriate strategy.
- **Be informed about the availability of emergency medical help;**
 - Emergency contact details (Ambulance or local hospital) and appropriate communication equipment need to be available
 - Ambulance access needs to be considered
 - Special planning considerations must be developed by the school and aquatic centres where response times for emergency medical help could be delayed eg a remote site (Ceduna and Coffin Bay) or at locations which are a significant distance from the home base. Sites more than 20 minutes from an ambulance station with paid staff are considered to be remote.

Anaphylaxis Management at DECD Aquatic Centres

DURING the aquatic session instructors need to;

Identify any child/young person at risk of anaphylaxis.

- By asking the supervising teaching staff who transport the children/young people to the Aquatic Centre to identify these children.

Obtain documentation and medication for individual children.

- **Obtain documentation and medication from children and young people at risk, this must include:**
 - ASCIA Action Plan
 - DECD Allergy/Anaphylaxis Care Plan (if the child/young person **does not** have an ASCIA Action Plan)
 - Medications noted on the ASCIA Action Plan.
- **If an adrenaline auto injector is prescribed:**
 - It must be located so that it is readily accessible
 - If the adrenaline auto injector is carried by the child/young person or instructor on the water this needs to be kept secure, cool and dry (there are containers and bags that are waterproof that can be securely attached to a person available)
 - Carrying an Auto injector on the water may be appropriate for insect allergy but is not appropriate for food allergy when food is not being consumed
 - A trained person must be available to administer the adrenaline auto injector:
 - All Senior First Aid and Applied first Aid courses include training in the management of anaphylaxis
 - All Aquatics Instructors are required to complete Applied First Aid as a minimum requirement for employment
 - Education and Care sites need to provide a trained staff member to support children and young people in transit and to support Aquatic Centre staff.

Implement reasonable measures to prevent exposure to triggers.

Strategies may include:

- Restricting when and where food is consumed
- Having latex free products available.

AFTER the aquatic session instructors must:

- Inform the school teaching staff, verbally and in writing, of any issues involving the child/young person
- Return all documentation and medications.