



School No: 2068 Established 1878

4.2 Asthma



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact 03 5996 1744.

Cranbourne Primary School OSHC strives to provide a safe and suitable environment for all children attending the service. Children with health needs such as Asthma will be supported through the creation of an Asthma Friendly environment in accordance with the recommendations of the Asthma Foundation of Victoria.

Assessment

If the child develops signs of what appears to be an asthma attack, appropriate care must be given immediately.

Assessing the severity of an asthma attack. Asthma attacks can be:

- Mild: this may involve coughing, a soft wheeze, minor difficulty in breathing and no difficulty speaking in sentences
- Moderate: this may involve a persistent cough, loud wheeze, obvious difficulty in breathing and ability to speak only in short sentences
- Severe: the student is often very stressed and anxious, gasping for breath, unable to speak more than a few words, pale and sweaty and may have blue lips

All students judged to be having a severe asthma attack require emergency medical assistance.

Call an ambulance (dial 000), notify the child's emergency contact and follow the '4 step Asthma First Aid Plan' while waiting for the ambulance to arrive. When calling the ambulance state clearly the child is having 'breathing difficulties.' The ambulance service will give priority to a person suffering extreme shortness of breath. Regardless of whether an attack of asthma has been assessed as mild, moderate or severe, Asthma First Aid must commence immediately. The danger in any asthma attack situation is delay. Delay may increase the severity of the attack and ultimately risk the child's life.

Asthma First Aid

If the student has an Asthma Action Plan, follow the first aid procedure immediately. If no Asthma Action Plan is available, the *4 step Asthma First Aid Plan* should be followed (see appendix). This will be displayed in the centre.

Procedures

- Cranbourne Primary OSHC shall ensure that staff with a direct responsibility for the children's wellbeing, such as the coordinator and supervisors in charge, have completed an accredited Emergency Asthma Management (EAM) course at least every three years.
- All staff will be required to be trained to assess and manage an asthma emergency by completing a one-hour Asthma Education session at least every three years.
- Each child diagnosed with Asthma shall have a management plan.
- Cranbourne Primary School OSHC will be aware of asthma triggers and manage the risks of this appropriately. These triggers may be food intolerances or environmental.

Relevant Laws and Regulations

Educational and Care Services National Regulations (90-96, 161-162, 177-78)

National Quality Area 2

Relevant Policies

General Health and Wellbeing Hygiene

Medical Conditions Medication

Review Information

Policy last reviewed	Sep 2022
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	Sep 2025

The 4 Step Asthma First Aid Plan

Step 1

- Sit the student down in as quiet an atmosphere as possible. Breathing is easier sitting rather than lying down. Be calm and reassuring. Do not leave the child alone.

Step 2

- Without delay give 4 separate puffs of a blue reliever medication (Airomir, Asmol, Eqaq or Ventolin). The medication is best given one puff at a time via a spacer device. If a spacer device is not available, simply use the puffer on its own.
- Ask the person to take 4 breaths from the spacer after each puff of medication.

Step 3

- Wait 4 minutes. If there is little or no improvement repeat steps 2 and 3.

Step 4

- If there is still little or no improvement; call an ambulance immediately (dial 000). State clearly that a child is having 'breathing difficulties.'
- Continuously repeat steps 2 and 3 while waiting for the ambulance.