
Asthma – school and child care

Summary

- If your child has asthma, you should let the staff at the childcare centre, kindergarten or school know about your child's diagnosis.
 - You should also supply an asthma action plan updated by your doctor.
 - Childcare centres, kindergartens or schools must have a plan for managing asthma emergencies.
 - Childcare centres, kindergartens or schools must, at all times, have staff on duty who are trained in first aid and asthma emergencies.
 - In cases of an emergency, staff may give your child medication immediately, but should call an ambulance and contact you as soon as possible.
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If your child or a child in your care is at risk of **asthma**, you should let the staff at the childcare centre, kindergarten or school know about your child's diagnosis. Once you have done so, and given them an asthma action plan for your child, the school or childcare centre must have staff on duty who have completed accredited first aid and management training for asthma attacks.

Responsibilities of parents of children with asthma who are at school or childcare

Consider giving your child a medical warning bracelet that will give important information to people who are unaware of your child's risk of asthma.

As a parent, you should:

- inform your child's school or childcare centre about your child's risk of asthma
- supply them with an asthma action plan for your child updated each year and completed by your doctor
- supply them with your emergency contact details and contact details for your doctor
- keep in contact with the school and inform them if the health needs of your child changes.

If your child is going on a school camp or participating in an excursion, you should also supply enough medication to cover the duration of the activity.

In case of an emergency, staff may give your child medication without authorisation, but should call an ambulance and contact you as soon as possible.

Responsibilities of childcare centres and kindergartens in caring for children with asthma

Services that care for or educate children are required to have first aid training for staff, anaphylaxis management and emergency asthma management plans and strategies to minimise the risk for your child.

The service must, at all times, have at least one educator in attendance with current and approved:

- first aid qualification
- anaphylaxis management training
- emergency asthma management training.

Some childcare centres or kindergartens are part of the Asthma Friendly Children's Services Program run by the Asthma Foundation Victoria. To be recognised in the program, childcare centres or kindergartens must maintain the facility's environment to reduce asthma triggers, improve asthma awareness and support children with asthma.

Responsibilities of schools in caring for children with asthma

Schools with students at risk of asthma must have:

- a school management plan for asthma
- an asthma care plan and student health support plan for each child at risk of asthma
- regular training for staff in first aid and management of asthma
- at least two school asthma first aid kits.

Schools must have strategies and asthma care plans to cover school camps and excursions, and have a strategy in place to support students with exercise-induced asthma.

Schools should regularly communicate with parents about the student's development and any health and education issues. Schools should also tell parents about the frequency and severity of the student's asthma symptoms while at school, and the use of medication at school.

Some schools are part of the Asthma Friendly Schools Program run by the Asthma Foundation Victoria. To be recognised in the program, schools must maintain the school environment to reduce asthma triggers, improve asthma awareness and support students with asthma.

Where to get help

- In an emergency, always call triple zero (000)
- Emergency department of your nearest hospital
- Your doctor
- **The Royal Children's Hospital** has produced a number of videos to help you better understand and manage your child's asthma.
- **NURSE-ON-CALL** Tel. 1300 60 60 24 – for expert health information and advice (24 hours, 7 days)
- **National Home Doctor Service** for after-hours home doctor visits (bulk billed) Tel. 13 SICK (13 7425)
- **Asthma Foundation of Victoria** Tel. 1800 ASTHMA (1800 278 462)
- **National Asthma Council of Australia** Tel. 1800 032 495
- **Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia** Tel. 1300 728 000

This page has been produced in consultation with and approved by:

Asthma Australia

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