



TRARALGON SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

ASTHMA POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the General Office on (03) 5195 5244.

PURPOSE:

To ensure that Traralgon South Primary School appropriately supports students diagnosed with asthma.

OBJECTIVE:

To explain to Traralgon South Primary School parents/carers, staff and students the processes and procedures in place to support students diagnosed with asthma.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to:

- all staff, including casual relief staff, contractors and volunteers.
- all students who have been diagnosed with asthma or who may require emergency treatment for asthma and their parents/carers.

POLICY:

1. Asthma:

Asthma is a long-term lung condition. People with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs which react to triggers, causing a 'flare-up'. In a flare-up, the muscles around the airway squeeze tight, the airways swell and become narrow and there is more mucus. This makes it hard to breathe. An asthma flare-up can come on slowly (over hours, days or even weeks) or very quickly (over minutes). A sudden or severe asthma flare-up is sometimes called an asthma attack.

a. Symptoms:

Symptoms of asthma can vary over time and often vary from person to person. The most common asthma symptoms are:

- Breathlessness
- Wheezing (a whistling noise from the chest)
- Tight feeling in the chest; and

- Persistent cough.

Symptoms often occur at night, early in the morning or during/just after physical activity. If asthma is well controlled, a person should only have occasional asthma symptoms.

b. Triggers:

A trigger is something that sets off or starts asthma symptoms. Everyone with asthma has different triggers. For most people with asthma, triggers are only a problem when asthma is not well controlled with medication. Common asthma triggers include:

- Exercise
- Smoke (cigarette smoke, wood smoke from open fires, burn-offs or bushfires)
- House dust mites
- Pollens
- Chemicals such as household cleaning products
- Food chemicals/additives
- Laughter or emotions, such as stress
- Colds/flu
- Weather changes such as thunderstorms and cold, dry air
- Moulds
- Animals such as cats and dogs
- Deodorants (including perfumes, after-shaves, hair spray and aerosol deodorant sprays)
- Certain medications (including aspirin and anti-inflammatories)

2. Asthma Management:

If a student diagnosed with asthma enrolls at Traralgon South Primary School:

- a.** Parents/carers must provide the school with an Asthma Action Plan (attached) which has been completed by the student's medical practitioner. The plan must outline:
- The prescribed medication taken by the student and when it is to be administered, for example as a pre-medication to exercise or on a regular basis
 - Emergency contact details
 - The contact details of the student's medical practitioner
 - The student's known triggers; and
 - The emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an asthma flare-up or attack.
- b.** Parents/carers should also provide a photo of the student to be included as part of the student's Asthma Action Plan.
- c.** Traralgon South Primary School will keep all Asthma Action Plans in the student's classroom and in the First Aid Room, with an additional copy in the Medical Folder (for evacuation purposes).
- d.** School staff may also work with parents/carers to develop a Student Health Support Plan which will include details on:
- How the school will provide support for the student
 - Identify specific strategies; and
 - Allocate staff to assist the student.

Any Student Health Support Plan will be developed in accordance with Traralgon South Primary School's Health Care Needs Policy, and where deemed appropriate by relevant parties, the Administration of Medication Policy.

- e. If a student diagnosed with asthma is going to attend a school camp or excursion, Traralgon South Primary School parents/carers are required to provide any updated medical information.
- f. For camps and excursions, the teacher-in-charge is to ensure the administration of all medication, including anaphylaxis and asthma, is summarised into one Medication Authority Form (see the Administration of Medication Policy).
- g. If a student's asthma condition or treatment requirements change, parent/carers must notify the school and provide an updated Asthma Action Plan.
- h. School staff will work with parents/carers to review Asthma Action Plans (and Student Health Support Plans) once a year.

3. Student Asthma Kit:

All students diagnosed with asthma are required to have a student asthma kit at school which contains:

- Their own prescribed reliever medication labelled with the student's name; and
- Their spacer (if they use one).

Student asthma kits will be stored in the student's bag, allowing for immediate access and an ability to transport between the classroom and specialist classrooms.

4. Asthma Emergency Response Plan:

If a student is:

- Having an asthma attack; or
- Having difficulty breathing for an unknown cause, even if they are not known to have asthma

School staff will endeavour to follow the Asthma First Aid procedures outlined in the table on the following page. School staff may contact Triple Zero "000" at any time.

Step	Action
1	Sit the person upright <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be calm and reassuring • Do not leave them alone • Seek assistance from another staff member or reliable student to locate the student's reliever, the Asthma Emergency Kit and the student's Asthma Action Plan (if available). • If the student's action plan is not immediately available, use the Asthma First Aid as described in Steps 2 to 5.
2	Give 4 separate puffs of blue or blue/grey reliever puffer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shake the puffer • Use a spacer if you have one • Put 1 puff into the spacer • Take 4 breaths from the spacer Remember – Shake, 1 puff, 4 breaths
3	Wait 4 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there is no improvement, give 4 more separate puffs of blue/grey reliever as above (or give 1 more dose of Bricanyl or Symbicort inhaler)
4	If there is still no improvement call Triple Zero "000" and ask for an ambulance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell the operator the student is having an asthma attack • Keep giving 4 separate puffs every 4 minutes until emergency assistance arrives (or 1 dose of Bricanyl or Symbicort every 4 minutes – up to 3 doses of Symbicort)
5	If asthma is relieved after administering Asthma First Aid, stop the treatment and observe the student. Notify the student's emergency contact person and record the incident

Staff will call Triple Zero "000" immediately if:

- the person is not breathing
- if the person's asthma suddenly becomes worse or is not improving
- if the person is having an asthma attack and a reliever is not available
- if they are not sure if it is asthma
- if the person is known to have anaphylaxis.

5. Training For Staff:

Traralgon South Primary School will arrange the following asthma management training for staff:

Staff	Completed by	Course	Provider	Cost	Valid for
Group 1: General Staff	School staff with a direct teaching role with students affected by asthma or other school staff directed by the principal after conducting a risk assessment.	Asthma first aid management for education staff (non-accredited) One hour online training.	Asthma Australia	Free to all schools	3 years
Group 2: Specific Staff	Staff working with high-risk children with a history of severe asthma, or with direct student wellbeing responsibility, (including nurses, PE/sport teachers, first aid and school staff attending camp)	<i>Course in the management of Asthma Risks and Emergencies in the Workplace 22556VIC</i> (accredited)	Any RTO that has this course in their scope of practice	Paid by Traralgon South Primary School	3 years

Traralgon South Primary School will also make this policy available to casual relief staff and volunteers who will be working with students and may also provide a briefing if the Principal decides it is necessary depending on the nature of the work being performed.

6. Asthma Emergency Kit:

Traralgon South Primary School will provide and maintain at least two Asthma Emergency Kits. One kit will be kept on school premises in the First Aid Room, and one will be a mobile kit for activities such as camps and excursions.

The Asthma Emergency Kit will contain:

- at least 1 blue or blue/grey reliever medication such as Airomir, Admol or Ventolin
- At least 2 spacer devices (for single person use only) to assist with effective inhalation of the blue or blue/grey reliever medication (Traralgon South Primary School will ensure spare spacers are available as replacements). Spacers will be stored in a dust proof container
- Clear written instructions on Asthma First Aid, including:
 - how to use the medication and spacer devices
 - steps to be taken in treating an asthma attack

- A record sheet/log for recording the details of an asthma first aid incident, such as the number of puffs administered [see template record sheet attached).

The school Business Manager or delegate will monitor and maintain the Asthma Emergency Kits. They will:

- Ensure all contents are maintained and replaced where necessary
- Regularly check the expiry date on the canisters of the blue or blue/grey reliever puffers and place them if they have expired or a low on doses
- Replace spacers in the Kits after each use (spacers are single-person use only); and
- Dispose of any previously used spacers.

The blue or blue/grey reliever medication in the Asthma Emergency Kits may be used by more than one student as long as they are used with a spacer. If the devices come into contact with someone's mouth, they will not be used again and will be replaced.

After each use of a blue or blue/grey reliever (with a spacer):

- remove the metal canister from the puffer (do not wash the canister)
- wash the plastic casing
- rinse the mouthpiece through the top and bottom under running water for at least 30 seconds
- wash the mouthpiece cover
- air dry then reassemble
- test the puffer to make sure no water remains in it, then return to the Asthma Emergency Kit.

7. Management of Confidential Medical Information:

Confidential medical information provided to Traralgon South Primary School to support a student diagnosed with asthma will be:

- Recorded on the student's file; and
- Shared with all relevant staff so that they are able to properly support students diagnosed with asthma and respond appropriately if necessary.

8. Communication Plan:

This policy will be available on Traralgon South Primary School's website so that parents and other members of the school community can easily access information about Traralgon South Primary School's asthma management procedures.

9. Epidemic Thunderstorm Asthma:

Traralgon South Primary School will be prepared to act on the warnings and advice from the Department of Education when the risk of epidemic thunderstorm asthma is forecast as high.

REVIEW CYCLE:

This policy was last ratified by School Council on 18 November 2024 and is scheduled for review in 2025.



ASTHMA ACTION PLAN

Take me when you visit your doctor

Photo (optional)

Name: _____
 Plan date: _____ Review date: _____
 Doctor details: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT
 Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Relationship: _____

WELL CONTROLLED is all of these...

- needing reliever medicine no more than 2 days/week
- no asthma at night
- no asthma when I wake up
- can do all my activities

Peak flow reading (if used) above _____

TAKE preventer
 Name: _____
 morning night puffs/inhalations
 • Use my preventer, even when well controlled • Use my spacer with my puffer

TAKE reliever
 Name: _____
 puffs/inhalations as needed puffs/inhalations 15 minutes before exercise
 • Always carry my reliever medicine

FLARE-UP Asthma symptoms getting worse such as **any** of these...

- needing reliever medicine more than usual OR more than 2 days/week
- woke up overnight with asthma
- had asthma when I woke up
- can't do all my activities

Peak flow reading (if used) between _____ and _____
 My triggers and symptoms

TAKE preventer
 Name: _____
 morning night puffs/inhalations for _____ days then back to **well controlled** dose

TAKE reliever
 Name: _____ puffs/inhalations as needed

START other medicine
 Name/dose/days/other treatments

MAKE appointment to see my doctor same day or as soon as possible

SEVERE Asthma symptoms getting worse such as **any** of these...

- reliever medicine not lasting 3 hours
- woke up frequently overnight with asthma
- had asthma when I woke up
- difficulty breathing

Peak flow reading (if used) between _____ and _____
 My triggers and symptoms

TAKE preventer
 Name: _____
 morning night puffs/inhalations for _____ days then back to **well controlled** dose

TAKE reliever
 Name: _____ puffs/inhalations as needed

START other medicine
 Name/dose/days/other treatments

MAKE appointment to see my doctor TODAY
 • If unable to see my doctor, visit a hospital

OTHER INSTRUCTIONS
 Other medicines, treatments, dose, duration, etc

EMERGENCY is any of these...

- reliever medicine not working at all
- can't speak a full sentence
- extreme difficulty breathing
- feel asthma is out of control
- lips turning blue

Peak flow reading (if used) below _____

1 **CALL AMBULANCE NOW**
 Dial Triple Zero (000)

2 **START ASTHMA FIRST AID**
 Turn page for Asthma First Aid

If you are using a dual purpose reliever, your doctor will discuss the correct plan for you.

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ASTHMA FIRST AID

Blue/Grey Reliever

Airomir, Asmol, Ventolin or Zempreon and Bricanyl

Blue/grey reliever medication is unlikely to harm, even if the person does not have asthma



DIAL TRIPLE ZERO (000) FOR AN AMBULANCE IMMEDIATELY IF THE PERSON:

- is not breathing
- suddenly becomes worse or is not improving
- is having an asthma attack and a reliever is not available
- is unsure if it is asthma
- has a known allergy to food, insects or medication and has **SUDDEN BREATHING DIFFICULTY, GIVE ADRENALINE AUTOINJECTOR FIRST (if available)**

1



SIT THE PERSON UPRIGHT

- Be **calm** and reassuring
- **Do not leave** them alone

2



GIVE 4 SEPARATE PUFFS OF RELIEVER PUFFER

- **Shake** puffer
- Put **1 puff** into spacer
- Take **4 breaths** from spacer
 - Repeat until **4 separate puffs** have been taken



If using **Bricanyl** (5 years or older)

- **Do not shake.** Open, twist around and back, and take a deep breath in
- Repeat until **2 separate inhalations** have been taken

If you don't have a spacer handy in an emergency, take **1 puff** as you take **1 slow, deep breath** and hold breath for as long as comfortable. Repeat until all puffs are given

3



WAIT 4 MINUTES

- If breathing does not return to normal, give **4 more separate puffs** of reliever as above



Bricanyl: Give 1 more inhalation

IF BREATHING DOES NOT RETURN TO NORMAL

4



DIAL TRIPLE ZERO (000)

- Say '**ambulance**' and that someone is having an asthma attack
- Keep giving **4 separate puffs every 4 minutes** until emergency assistance arrives



Bricanyl: Give 1 more inhalation **every 4 minutes** until emergency assistance arrives



ASTHMA AUSTRALIA

1800 ASTHMA
(1800 278 462)
asthma.org.au

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ASTHMA EMERGENCY KIT LOG

**This form is to be used by staff to record use of this Kit.
It is in addition to the first aid log as required by worksite policies.**

This log should be completed whenever the kit is used and kept with the kit until it needs to be replaced.

Completed forms should be stored with the worksite first aid log.
Additional forms can be downloaded at asthma.org.au

Important: Check medication expiry date.



DATE	TIME	NAME OF PERSON BEING TREATED	DESCRIBE PRESENTATION	ACTION TAKEN	PUFFER COUNT <small>Count down from 200</small>	WORKSITE REPORT COMPLETED <small>(Yes/No)</small>	EMERGENCY CONTACT NOTIFIED	NAME OF PERSON MAKING ENTRY <small>Print name and sign</small>

For more information, contact Asthma Australia on **1800 ASTHMA** (1800 278 462) or visit asthma.org.au

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