



Are you
allergy
aware?

250K AN ALLERGY
AWARENESS
PROJECT

**national
allergy
strategy**



ascia
australian society of
clinical immunology and allergy



What is allergy?

People with an allergy can become sick when they come into contact with things that are harmless to most people

People with allergies to triggers they breathe in can get hay fever and asthma like symptoms such as:

- Runny nose, sneezing and itchy eyes
- Cough, tight chest and get out of breath



Why do people have allergies?

- Sometimes it's because their parents have allergies
- Most of the time we just don't know
- Lots of research is being undertaken to try to find out why
- Unlike colds and chicken pox, you can't catch an allergy from someone else



People can be allergic to:

- Food
- Insects (e.g. bees, wasps, ants) and ticks
- Medicines
- Things that they breathe in (e.g. dust mite, pollen, pet dander, mould)



Most people know about peanut allergy, but lots of other foods can cause allergic reactions, just as severe, too





People with allergies to food, medicine or insect stings can get very sick and have symptoms like:

- Itchy red skin and lumps
- Face swelling
- Persistent coughing and finding it hard to breathe
- Stomach ache and vomiting
- Dizziness or collapse

Sometimes an allergic reaction can make a person so sick, that they need emergency medicine (EpiPen) quickly and then they need to go to hospital by ambulance

This is called anaphylaxis (ana--fil--axis) and it means “severe allergic reaction”



So that people with allergies to food, insects or medicines don't get sick, they must avoid what they are allergic to

How can you help?



You can be a MATE to them!



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What does being a MATE mean?

It means taking allergy seriously

1. Don't tease, trick, bully or joke about their allergy
2. Never share your food with them unless they can read the ingredients themselves
3. Ask them what they are allergic to and what you can do to help
4. Get help from an adult if someone with allergy feels sick, even if they don't want you to get help



What can you do to help when a friend has a severe allergic reaction?

- Immediately ask for help from an adult
- If no adult is nearby, a friend should run to get one ASAP
- The person having an allergic reaction should stay where they are and lay down (or sit if it is hard to breathe) while the adult quickly brings the emergency medicine to them - they should NOT stand or walk



What can you do when a student has anaphylaxis at school?

If the person having an allergic reaction has their emergency medicine (EpiPen) with them, they should give it to themselves immediately if they are able or it should be given by someone else if they are too unwell

The ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis should be followed



ascia
www.allergy.org.au

ACTION PLAN FOR Anaphylaxis
For EpiPen® adrenaline (epinephrine) autoinjectors

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____

SIGNS OF MILD TO MODERATE ALLERGIC REACTION

- Swelling of lips, face, eyes
- Hives or welts
- Tragging mouth
- Abdominal pain, vomiting (these are signs of anaphylaxis for insect allergy)

ACTION FOR MILD TO MODERATE ALLERGIC REACTION

- For insect allergy - tick out sting if visible
- For food allergy - freeze dry spit and allow to drop off
- Stay with person and call for help
- Locate EpiPen® or EpiPen® Jr adrenaline autoinjector
- Give other medications (if prescribed)
- Phone family/emergency contact

Confirmed allergens: _____

Family/emergency contact number(s): _____

Work Ph: _____
Home Ph: _____
Mobile Ph: _____
Plan prepared by medical or nurse practitioner: _____

Use only adrenaline medicines specified on this plan to be administered according to the plan.

Date: _____
Action Plan due for review: _____

Mild to moderate allergic reactions (such as hives or swelling) may not always occur before anaphylaxis.

WATCH FOR ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SIGNS OF ANAPHYLAXIS (SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTION)

- Difficult/noisy breathing
- Difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice
- Swelling/tightness in throat
- Persistent dizziness or collapse
- Wheeze or persistent cough
- Pale and floppy (young children)

ACTION FOR ANAPHYLAXIS

- 1 Lay person flat - do NOT allow them to stand or walk
- If unconscious, place in recovery position
- If breathing is difficult allow them to sit
- 2 Give EpiPen® or EpiPen® Jr adrenaline autoinjector
- 3 Phone ambulance - 000 (AE) or 111 (NZ)
- 4 Phone family/emergency contact
- 5 Further adrenaline doses may be given if no response after 5 minutes
- 6 Transfer person to hospital for at least 4 hours of observation
If in doubt give adrenaline autoinjector

Commence CPR at any time if person is unresponsive and not breathing normally

ALWAYS give adrenaline autoinjector FIRST, and then asthma reliever puffer if someone with known asthma and allergy to food, insects or medication has SUDDEN ONSET/CHANGING DIFFICULTY (including wheeze, persistent cough or hoarse voice) even if there are no skin symptoms.

Adrenaline reliever medication prescribed: Y N

All EpiPen® products are used in place of a second adrenaline autoinjector or second dose.

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Further information:

250K – an allergy aware project

250k.org.au

Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia

allergyfacts.org.au

**Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy
(ASCIA)**

allergy.org.au

