

MACS First Aid Policy and Guidelines



Purpose

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS), and the schools it governs and operates, strive to be communities of faith, hope and love, where the wellbeing and interests of all students is foremost. We have a responsibility to provide a safe work environment for all members of our school community. We have a particular duty of care for the safety of our students. It is important, therefore, to identify the first aid arrangements and facilities in place to ensure all injured and ill people get immediate and adequate treatment.

Appropriate first aid facilities, training and resources must be in place in each school or workplace to meet the first aid needs of staff, students and others in the workplace or school, or in school approved activities, including those activities that take place off site or out of school hours.

Scope

These guidelines apply to all employees, students and others in all schools and workplaces governed and operated by MACS.

Definitions

First Aid – the emergency treatment provided to employees, students and others who suffer injury or illness while at work/school, using the facilities or materials available at the time. In the case of severe injury or illness, members of staff are not required to diagnose or treat the condition apart from carrying out the appropriate first aid procedures. Diagnosis and treatment are the responsibility of the ambulance officer or medical practitioners.

First Aid Officers – staff members who have been trained in first aid and are designated to provide initial care of ill or injured staff, students or others.

Policy

First aid facilities to meet the needs of staff, students and others must be in place in schools and for school approved activities, including off site activities such as camps and excursions, and out of hours school events.

Sufficient staff must be trained under the provisions of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 to ensure adequate provision of first aid based on the number of students, the activities being undertaken and the environment.

A first aid officer with current first aid qualifications must always be available to respond and assist an ill or injured person.

Additional staff with relevant training must be available depending on the student population, proximity to medical facilities, and the nature of activities being undertaken.

Additional training for anaphylaxis management will be undertaken by all staff in schools.

A first aid risk assessment will identify the minimum first aid requirements for a school and considers:

- the size and layout of the school – buildings, external areas
- high risk areas – technology and science laboratories, health and physical education facilities, performing arts facilities, workshops or maintenance areas, chemical storage areas
- the number of campuses
- the number of employees, students and others in the workplace
- known medical conditions of staff, students and others
- previous incidents or trends in illness or injuries
- the nature and location of camps, excursions and other off site activities
- school vehicles
- proximity to medical facilities and access to emergency services
- proximity of hazards in the school or local environment.

This risk assessment will identify the following:

- the number of designated first aid officers
- the location of first aid room, if required
- the number, location and contents of first aid kits.

The risk assessment is to be reviewed regularly to ensure that the first aid resources in the school continue to meet the needs of the community. A first aid risk assessment is to be completed prior to camps and excursions.

First aid officer training

It is the responsibility of the principal or their delegate to ensure that designated first aid officers have completed the recognised training. The first aid risk assessment will determine the level of first aid training to be undertaken and the number of first aid officers required in the school.

The minimum training requirement is HLTAID003 – Provide First Aid. This certificate is to be renewed every three years. In addition, the refresher in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) HLTAID001 must be completed each year.

General first aid training for staff

All staff are to complete the refresher in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) HLTAID001 each year.

All staff are to attend two briefings on anaphylaxis management conducted at the school by the anaphylaxis supervisors. In compliance with Ministerial Order 706, it is recommended that all Victorian school staff undertake the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) e-training course and have their competency in using an autoinjector tested in person within 30 days of completing the course. Staff are required to complete this training every two years.

Training in the management of asthma should be undertaken annually. Depending on the student population, additional training in other medical conditions, such as diabetes or epilepsy may be recommended following the first aid risk assessment

A register of all first aid training is kept in the school by a person nominated by the principal.

Responsibilities of first aid officers

First aid officers provide initial care to injured or ill staff, students or others by delivering first aid treatment in accordance with the level of their training. They are not required to diagnose conditions or to provide ongoing medical assistance. When appropriate, the first aid officer will refer the ill or injured person to additional medical advice or assistance. The first aid risk assessment will determine the appropriate number of staff designated as first aid officers in each school. The principal must ensure there are adequate staff trained in first aid to meet the needs of the particular school environment and population.

Location of first aid

Where it is determined that a first aid room is required in a school, the location of this room must be known and easily accessible by the school community and emergency services, and readily identifiable with appropriate signage. This room is not to be used for any other purpose and be well-lit and ventilated. The first aid facility is to be equipped in accordance with the Worksafe compliance code: First aid in the workplace.

If it is not possible to provide a first aid room, an area must be provided for ill or injured staff, students or others to rest. This area should meet as many requirements as possible of those for first aid rooms.

The first aid room or area must be in a location that can be supervised by a staff member with first aid training at all times. A locked cabinet for the storage of medication must be available in the facility.

Communication with Parents, Guardians and/or Carers

Information about the school's policies and procedures for first aid, distribution of medication, and management of students with medical conditions will be provided to parents, guardians and/or carers. Updates to these policies and procedures will be provided through the school's website, newsletters or online applications.

The school will request that parents provide up-to-date and accurate medical information relating to students, including information about conditions such as anaphylaxis, asthma and diabetes. Parents will be requested to provide this information annually, prior to camps and excursions and if the child's medical condition has changed.

An incident report will be completed when first aid is administered. This report will be kept in the school and a copy provided for the parent, guardian and/or carer of the student.

Parents, guardians and/or carers must be notified as soon as possible if required to collect an ill or injured student from the school. When a parent cannot be contacted, the principal will contact the emergency contact nominated by the parent, guardian and/or carer.

COHR Procedures

Policy compliance

- Administration staff and those rostered on First Aid Duty, as well as most other staff members, are trained with a HLTAID011 certificate, and with up-to-date CPR qualifications.
- The first aid room is available for use at all times. A comprehensive supply of basic first aid materials will be stored in the cupboards in the first aid room.
- First aid kits will be taken by staff out on yard duty and on excursions. These include an EpiPen and an asthma puffer. When on yard duty, staff carry a walkie-talkie for communication with the First Aid duty staff member. When on yard duty staff carry photographs of children with formal medical conditions, e.g Anaphylaxis, with details of symptoms and actions.

- Supervision of the first aid room will form part of the daily yard duty roster. Any children in the first aid room will be supervised by a staff member at all times.
- All injuries or illnesses that occur during class time will be referred to the administration staff who will manage the incident; all injuries or illnesses that occur during recess or lunch breaks, will be referred to the teacher on duty in the first aid room.
- A confidential up-to-date register located in the first aid room will be kept of all injuries or illnesses experienced by children that require first aid. More serious injuries will also be recorded in the CCI books. Broken bones need to be reported to Worksafe within 24 hours of the accident.
- All staff will be provided with basic first aid management skills, including blood spills, and a supply of protective disposable gloves will be available for use by staff.
- Minor injuries only will be treated by staff members on duty, while more serious injuries- including those requiring parents to be notified or suspected treatment by a doctor - require a HLTAID011 certificate trained staff member to provide first aid.
- Any children with injuries involving blood must have the wound covered at all times.
- No medication including headache tablets will be administered to children without the express written permission of parents or guardians.
- Parents of all children who receive first aid will receive a completed form indicating the nature of the injury, any treatment given, and the name of the teacher providing the first aid. For more serious injuries/illnesses, the parents/guardians must be contacted by the administration staff so that professional treatment may be organised. Any injuries to a child's head, face, neck or back must be reported to parents/guardian.
- Any student who is collected from school by parents/guardians as a result of an injury, or who is administered treatment by a doctor/hospital or ambulance officer as a result of an injury, or has an injury to the head, face, neck or back, or where a teacher considers the injury to be greater than "minor" will be reported in Catholic Church Insurances book. When a child has been hospitalised, the school, normally the Principal will contact the family to determine if support is required.
- Parents of ill children will be contacted to take the children home.
- Parents who collect children from school for any reason (other than emergency) must sign the child out of the school in a register maintained in the school office.
- All teachers have the authority to call an ambulance immediately in an emergency. If the situation and time permit, a teacher may confer with others before deciding on an appropriate course of action.
- All school camps will have at least 1 HLTAID011 certificate trained staff member at all times.
- A comprehensive first aid kit will accompany all camps, along with a mobile phone.
- All children attending camps or excursions will have provided a signed medical form providing medical detail and giving teachers permission to contact a doctor or ambulance should instances arise where their child requires treatment. Copies of the signed medical forms to be taken on camps and excursions, as well as kept at school.
- All children, especially those with a documented asthma management plan, will have access to Ventolin and a spacer at all times.

- The Administration staff are to be responsible for the purchase and maintenance of first aid supplies, first aid kits, ice packs and the general upkeep of the first aid room.
- At the commencement of each year, and as necessary, requests for updated first aid information will be sent home including requests for any asthma, diabetes and anaphylaxis management plans, high priority medical forms, and reminders to parents of the policies and practices used by the school to manage first aid, illnesses and medications throughout the year.
- General organisational matters relating to first aid will be communicated to staff at the beginning of each year.
- Anaphylaxis twice yearly updates occur in Terms 1 & 3.
- It is recommended that all students have personal accident insurance and ambulance cover.