

Anaphylaxis/ Adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs)* and asthma awareness sessions

From September 2018 the above awareness raising sessions will continue to be offered by the school nursing service annually to school staff in Solihull. The session provides designated staff with a definition and incidence of anaphylaxis, including common causes; reactions and treatments for milder reactions; and how to manage a child having an anaphylaxis reaction. Staff attending will handle and practice with a demonstration AAI. The sessions will also include raising awareness of asthma and how the condition can be treated.

All staff attending the session will receive a staff attendance record outlining the areas covered signed by the nurse facilitating the session.

How awareness sessions will be delivered

Previously, training was delivered on site in all schools. The need to make efficiencies in the Healthy Child Programme service 0-19 years, which includes school nursing, has necessitated a revised approach from September 2018. Careful consideration has been given to ensure that our local offer reflects key documentation: [Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school \(DfE 2017\)](#); [Using emergency adrenaline auto-injectors in schools \(DoHSC 2017\)](#) and [local guidance](#). The need to ensure that we have a suitably equipped workforce to keep staff and pupils within our schools safe remains paramount.

The local offer

National guidance states that face-to-face training is needed for staff administering AAIs and online training does not replace this.

Awareness sessions will be offered on four dates with a variety of time slots at two sites across Solihull. These sessions will be facilitated by a qualified member of the school nursing team and are primarily aimed at staff who have volunteered or who have it written into their job descriptions to administer AAI injections if the need arises. As this will be a voluntary duty for many staff, attendance at the session will not be considered as a commitment to administer the AAI. Schools will need to ensure that they have sufficient staff trained and willing to administer AAI.

Training is offered during the autumn and spring terms (please see attached sheet for details of when sessions are taking place and how to book on):

- September 2018 - 13 sessions (some at Friars Gate, some at Bishop Wilson) with a capacity of 20 places each session (260 places overall)
- January 2019 – 7 sessions (some at Friars Gate, some at Bishop Wilson) with a capacity of 20 places each session (140 places overall)

The awareness sessions will be continually monitored and reviewed in case of the need for additional ones.

National guidance does not specify how many members of school staff it is reasonable to train to provide adequate cover in the event that a child does have an allergic reaction which requires immediate treatment.

For the rest of the school staff who, in line with the national guidance, need to have an awareness of allergic reactions and the policies surrounding the use of AAIs, there is a free on-line anaphylaxis training course available at <https://allergywise.org.uk/>. It would be good practice for all members of staff to complete this training.

Every child with an AAI will have an individual healthcare plan (IHP) that will be developed and updated by a member of the school nursing service.

[Asthma UK](#) signposts schools to the [Supporting Children's Health](#) website for an online training module.

What guidance is available for head teachers?

[Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school \(DfE 2017\)](#)

The statutory guidance "Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school" requires governing bodies to ensure that staff supporting children with a medical condition should have appropriate knowledge, and where necessary, support.

[Using emergency adrenaline auto-injectors in schools \(DoHSC 2017\)](#)

The guidance states that all staff should have awareness training so that they can recognise the signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction. However, schools should also have some staff who have had specialist training to administer an adrenaline auto-injector. National guidance states:

"Schools will want to ensure there are a reasonable number of designated members of staff to provide sufficient coverage, including when staff are on leave. In many schools, it would be appropriate for there to be multiple designated members of staff who can administer an AAI to avoid any delay in treatment.....

.... It would be reasonable for ALL staff to:

- be trained to recognise the range of signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction;
- understand the rapidity with which anaphylaxis can progress to a life-threatening reaction, and that anaphylaxis may occur with prior mild (e.g. skin) symptoms;
- appreciate the need to administer adrenaline without delay as soon as anaphylaxis occurs, before the patient might reach a state of collapse (after which it may be too late for the adrenaline to be effective);
- be aware of the anaphylaxis policy;
- be aware of how to check if a pupil is on the register;
- be aware of how to access the AAI;
- be aware of who the designated members of staff are, and the policy on how to access their help.

Schools must arrange specialist anaphylaxis training for staff where a pupil in the school has been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis. The specialist training should include practical instruction in how to use the different AAI devices available".

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Local guidance is available at <http://www.solgrid.org.uk/wellbeing/medicines/medications/emergency-medication/epipen-anapen/>
and here: <http://www.solgrid.org.uk/wellbeing/medicines/conditions/asthma/> .

This advises head teachers/governors as follows:

Training of designated staff will be provided by the appropriate health professional and a record of training undertaken will be kept by the head teacher/setting lead or manager. Training will be updated at least once a year.

[Emergency asthma inhalers for use in schools - further advice to head teachers](#)

[Anaphylaxis Campaign: Supporting people at risk of severe allergies](#) provides further support and useful information for schools.

[Asthma UK](#) have lots of resource that may be of use to schools.

* PLEASE NOTE: Adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) is the preferred term as Epipen/Anapen are brand names.