

18th June 2020

Beverley Southward

Department for Education

Email: Beverley.Southward@education.gov.uk

Dear Beverley

We hope this letter finds you and your colleagues safe and well. We are writing to you because as some children begin to return to schools, we have received queries from concerned parents and school staff seeking guidance on the issue of administering emergency anaphylaxis treatment in schools whilst governed by current social distancing requirements. Parents, quite rightly, are wanting concrete reassurance that their children will receive prompt and appropriate emergency treatment if needed, and schools are seeking guidance and clarification around any extra precautions that they should be taking during this time.

The Anaphylaxis Campaign has released a statement which offers links to the relevant resources including the PHE COVID19 Guidance for first responders, The Resus Council (UK) Statements on COVID19 and the HSE First Aid during the coronavirus outbreak guidance. The statement released also confirms our position that emergency treatment must of course be given immediately without restriction despite the COVID-19 risk. However, whilst we can direct parents and schools to these guidelines, what we can't do is offer any reassurances that the correct treatment will definitely be given without any delay due to social distancing restrictions should an emergency situation arise.

Anaphylaxis is a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction and always requires an immediate emergency response. The response will inevitably require close contact which could increase the risk of cross infection for any infectious disease, including COVID-19. However, this risk must be weighed against the likelihood that the child could die if assistance is not given immediately.

If a child is having a severe allergic reaction, it is vital that they receive an adrenaline injection. This must be given as soon as a severe reaction is suspected to be occurring and an ambulance must be called. The adrenaline should be administered first, and an ambulance should be called immediately afterwards.

We would like to request that the Department for Education issues a clear statement about teacher's obligations should a child suffer anaphylaxis at school and need first aid assistance. We feel this is needed to address confusion that has arisen as a result of social distancing guidelines in schools, and to

Postal address: 1 Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6BU Telephone: 01252 546100 Helpline 01252 542029
Email: info@anaphylaxis.org.uk Website: www.anaphylaxis.org.uk Twitter: [@anaphylaxiscoms](https://twitter.com/anaphylaxiscoms)

allay the fears of parents that their children may not receive the lifesaving treatment they need should they suffer a serious allergic reaction whilst in the care of the school.

We hope that you will be able to assist us in this matter and look forward to hearing from you soon.

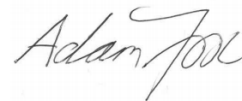
Yours sincerely,



Lynne Regent
CEO
Anaphylaxis Campaign



Carla Jones,
CEO
Allergy UK



Professor Adam Fox
Chair
British Society of Allergy and
Clinical Immunology