



ASTHMA POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Traralgon College on 5176 2240.

PURPOSE

To ensure that Traralgon College appropriately supports students diagnosed with asthma.

OBJECTIVE

To explain to Traralgon College 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

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 an increase in mucus production in the airways, making it difficult to breathe. An asthma flare-up can develop slowly (over hours, days or even weeks) or suddenly (over minutes). A sudden or severe asthma flare-up is sometimes called an asthma attack.

Symptoms

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

- breathlessness.
- wheezing (a whistling noise from the chest).
- tight feeling in the chest.
- 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.

Triggers

A trigger is something that induces asthma symptoms. Those who have asthma often have 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).

Asthma management

If a student diagnosed with asthma enrolls at Traralgon College:

1. Parents/carers must provide the school with an Asthma Action Plan 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.
 - the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an asthma flare-up or attack.
2. Parents/carers should also provide a photo of the student to be included as part of the student's Asthma Action Plan.
3. Traralgon College will keep all Asthma Action Plans on Compass and within folders located in the first aid room at both campuses, with details of triggers, symptoms and management added to the students Compass page.
4. A student with an Asthma Action Plan only requires a Student Health Support Plan if their asthma is not well-controlled, and needs individualised medical or health-related supervision, care or adjustments at school. School staff will work with parents/carers to develop a Student Health Support Plan which will include details of the following:
 - how the school will provide support for the student.
 - identification of specific strategies to avoid 'flare-ups'.
 - allocation of staff to assist the student.

Any Student Health Support Plan will be developed in accordance with Traralgon College's Healthcare Needs Policy.

5. If a student diagnosed with asthma is going to attend a school camp or excursion, Traralgon College parents/carers are required to provide any updated medical information.
6. If a student's asthma condition or treatment requirements change, parent/carers must notify the school and provide an updated Asthma Action Plan.
7. Once a year, school staff will review Asthma Action Plans (and if relevant, Student Health Support Plans) and communicate with the parents/carers to:
 - provide updated medical or health advice if available.
 - review and provide written confirmation that the Asthma Action Plan is still current.



Student asthma kit

All students diagnosed with asthma are required to have access to an asthma kit at school which contains:

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

Students will be required to keep their asthma kits with them while at school.

Asthma emergency kits are also located in:

- First Aid Rooms of both campuses.
- In all first aid kits.
- Science rooms.
- Home Economics rooms.
- The Hall at Grey St and Stadium at Shakespeare St.

Asthma emergency response plan

If a student is:

- having an asthma attack.
- having difficulty breathing from 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 below. 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
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
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.
- the person is known to have anaphylaxis – staff will follow their Anaphylaxis Action Plan then give asthma first aid.
- the person is having a severe or life threatening attack (reliever medication not working at all; cannot speak a full sentence; extreme difficulty breathing; feeling asthma is out of control; lips turning blue).
- if the person is having an asthma attack and a reliever is not available.
- at any time the person’s condition suddenly deteriorates or fails to improve.
- staff are otherwise concerned about the student’s health and safety.

Training for staff

Traralgon College 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.	Asthma first aid management for education staff (non-accredited) One hour face-to-face or online training.	Asthma Australia	Free to all schools	3 years
Group 2 Targeted Staff	Staff working with high risk children with a history of severe asthma, or with direct student wellbeing responsibility, (such as nurses, first aid officers, camp organisers) or in high-risk teaching areas (such as PE/sport, home economics or cooking teachers)	<i>Course in the Management of Asthma Risks and Emergencies in the Workplace 22556VIC (accredited)</i>	Any RTO that has this course in their scope of practice	Paid by Traralgon College	3 years

Traralgon College will also conduct an annual briefing for staff detailing the:

- procedures outlined in this policy.
- causes, symptoms and treatment of asthma.
- identities of the students diagnosed with asthma.
- procedure for the use of a puffer and spacer.
- the location of:
 - Asthma Emergency Kits.
 - Asthma medication which has been provided by parents for student use.



Traralgon College will also provide this policy 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.

Asthma Emergency Kit

Traralgon College will provide and maintain at least two Asthma Emergency Kits at each campus. One kit will be kept on school premises at the First aid office of each campus and one will be a mobile kit for activities such as:

- yard duty.
- camps and excursions.

Traralgon College has additional Asthma Emergency Kits located as follows:

- First Aid offices at both campuses.
- Science Rooms at Grey Street campus.
- Sub school offices at Shakespeare Street campus.
- Home Economics Rooms at both campuses.
- Stadium at Shakespeare Street campus.
- Hall at Grey Street campus.
- The Food Technology rooms at both campuses
- In all first aid kits.

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 College 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.

First Aid qualified Education Support staff in the Shakespeare Street campus main office and Grey Street campus first aid office 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 replace them if they have expired or are low on doses.
- replace spacers in the Kits after each use (spacers are single-person use only).
- 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.

Management of confidential medical information

Confidential medical information provided to Traralgon College to support a student diagnosed with asthma will be:



- recorded on the student's file on Compass.
- shared with all relevant staff to enable suitable support to students diagnosed with asthma and then to respond appropriately as necessary.

Epidemic Thunderstorm Asthma

Traralgon College will be prepared to act on the warnings and advice from the Department of Education and Training when the risk of epidemic thunderstorm asthma is forecast as high. Advice may include but not limited to:

- Staying indoors.
- Keeping doors and windows closed.
- Setting air conditioners to recirculate indoor air.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- School website (publicly accessible).
- Traralgon College Teams channel.
- Staff briefing/meeting.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Asthma Australia: [Resources for schools](#)
- Asthma Australia: [Asthma Emergency Kits](#)
- Policy and Advisory Library:
 - [Asthma](#)
 - [Treating an asthma attack](#)

APPROVAL AND REVIEW

Policy last reviewed	June 2026
Approved by	Principal July 2026
Next scheduled review date	June 2027