



Health Care Needs

PURPOSE

To ensure that Mount Alexander College provides appropriate support to students with health care needs.

OBJECTIVE

To explain to Mount Alexander College's parents, carers, staff and students the processes and procedures in place to support students with health care needs at school.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- all staff, including casual relief staff and volunteers
- all students who have been diagnosed with a health care need that may require support, monitoring or medication at school.

Guiding Principles

- Parent/carers are the primary carers for a student with high medical and/or health needs.
- Parents and carers are an integral part of the support provided to their child.
- Schools are primarily educators of students.

Schools will be guided by medical practitioners, health services, other relevant agencies and local community resources in meeting the health needs of students.

POLICY

This policy should be read with Mount Alexander's *First Aid*, *Administration of Medication*, *Anaphylaxis* and *Asthma* policies.

Student health support planning

In order to provide appropriate support to students at Mount Alexander College who may need medical care or assistance, a Student Health Support Plan will be prepared by the student wellbeing coordinator in consultation with the Leading Teacher Student Engagement, School's First Aid Officer, the student, their parents, carers and treating medical practitioners.

The Student Health Support Plan addresses the needs of the student in the context of the school and the activities in which the student will be involved. Planning must take into account the student's full range of learning and support needs.

Where practical, the Student Health Care Plan is developed in consultation with the parent, staff and student, and based on information from the student's doctor.

Student Health Support plans help our school to assist students with:

- routine health care support needs, such as supervision or provision of medication
- personal care support needs, such as assistance with personal hygiene, continence care, eating and drinking, transfers, and positioning, and use of health-related equipment
- emergency care needs, such as predictable emergency first aid associated with asthma, seizure or diabetes management.
- There are a range of tasks that can be performed by appropriately trained School Staff. These include the provision of first aid, non-invasive health care procedures and dispensing medication. Trained School staff may perform non-invasive health care procedures in accordance with a Medical Care Plan developed by the student's treating practitioner.
- Where support is non-invasive and does not require specialist assistance, school staff with authorised training/instruction can be made available to provide assistance. This is on a voluntary basis.

Students with complex medical care needs, for example, tracheostomy care, seizure management or tube feeding, must have Medical Care Plan developed by the student's treating practitioner in addition to the Student Health Support Plan.

Parent/carer responsibility

- Parents/carers must provide all necessary and relevant information regarding specialised medical assistance and must ensure that such information is updated on a regular basis.
- At enrolment or when a health care need is identified, parents/carers should provide accurate information about the student's condition or health care needs, ideally documented by the student's treating medical/health care practitioner on a Medical Advice Form (or relevant equivalent)
- Parents/carers must provide the equipment, medication and consumables required for the student's care and ensure that regular re-supply occurs. Medication and consumables must not be out of date and should be securely labelled.
- Parents/carers will provide consent/authorisation for the school to contact the relevant medical/health practitioner.

Mount Alexander College may invite parents and carers to attend a Student Support Group meeting to discuss the contents of a student's Health Support Plan and assistance that the student may need at school or during school activities.

Where necessary, Mount Alexander College may also request consent from parents and carers to consult with a student's medical practitioners, to assist in preparing the plan and ensure that appropriate school staff understand the student's needs.

Student Health Support Plans will be reviewed:

- when updated information is received from the student's medical practitioner
- when the school, student or parents and carers have concerns with the support being provided to the student

- if there are changes to the support being provided to the student, or
- on an annual basis.

Management of confidential medical information

Confidential medical information provided to Mount Alexander College to support a student will be:

- recorded on the student's file
- shared with all relevant staff so that they are able to properly support students diagnosed with medical conditions and respond appropriately if necessary.
- At the Debney Meadows – Senior Student Campus the onsite ES staff member, employed by Mount Alexander College, will be given specific responsibility to manage the medical information and health care needs of all Senior Students located on this campus. This staff member will be First Aid, Anaphylaxis and CPR trained.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
 - [Health Care Needs](#)
 - [Health Support Planning Forms](#)
 - [Complex Medical Needs](#)
 - [Administration of Medication](#)
 - [Child and Family Violence Information Sharing Schemes](#)
 - [Privacy and Information Sharing](#)
- The following school policies are also relevant to this policy:
 - Administration of Medication Policy
 - Anaphylaxis Policy
 - Asthma Policy
 - First Aid Policy
 - Medication Administration Log
 - Medication Authority Form

COMMUNICATION

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

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Included in Family Information Handbook
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

REVIEW CYCLE

- This policy was last updated in June 2022 and is scheduled for review in 2024/2025

Key Reviewer	Date updated	Next Review
Dani Angelico consultation with First Aid Officer	30 June 2022	September 2024/2025