



AGSV/APS Medical Attention Guidelines



Last Review: February 2026	Constructed by: AGSV Board
Next Review: February 2027	Approval Required: Board Motion
	Board Sign Off Date: 2010

Statement of Context

- AGSV and APS Sport oversee competition in a range of sports at a range of venues. Whilst most venues are at competing schools, some venues are off campus.
- As part of their governance responsibilities, the AGSV and APS Heads have identified the need to provide guidelines for schools, regarding the provision of medical attention for participants.

Reference Points

Reference has been made to Extracts of Background paper from Sports Medicine Australia and legal advice obtained in other areas has some bearing on the guidelines listed below especially within 'Duty of Care'.

Aim

In formulating these guidelines, AGSV and APS Sport aim to reflect their Duty of Care for participants in sporting competitions. The guidelines are designed to draw attention to the general risks only of injury within sporting competitions and set down guidance to be followed by schools and participants for provision of medical attention at sporting competitions.

Guideline details for all venues

At each venue, Delegates/Sports Coordinators are to make the following first aid provisions for each sporting competition.

The number and type of first aid locations at a venue should reflect the number and type of participants and activities.

The Coach / Manager must:

- carry or have ready access to a basic first aid kit.
- have ready access to a phone (mobile or landline).
- be informed of the qualified First Aid provided on site.

- d) AGSV Member Schools will also monitor the public information and amend their own policies consistent with any changes

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Thunderstorm asthma can affect those with asthma or hay fever - especially people who experience wheezing or coughing with their hay fever. All people at increased risk of thunderstorm asthma and those **who have duty of care** for them should:

- learn about epidemic thunderstorm asthma and what they can do to help protect themselves and those in their care during the grass pollen season
- check the epidemic thunderstorm asthma forecast daily
- where possible, ensure that individuals who are prone to asthma attempt to avoid being outside during thunderstorms from October through December – especially in the wind gusts that come before the storm. (Individuals prone to asthma should go inside and close the doors and windows, and if they have their air conditioner on, turn it to ‘recirculate’)
- ensure they have an up to date asthma action plan (if they have asthma) and have practical knowledge of the four steps of asthma first aid
- have reliever medication appropriately available in grass pollen season and be aware of how to use it (ideally with a spacer)
- be alert to and act on the development of asthma symptoms as explained in their asthma action plan (if they have one), or if they don’t, use asthma first aid.
- ensure those who have asthma symptoms see their doctor for advice

5. Policy details

All AGSV Member Schools are required to develop and maintain a Thunderstorm Asthma Policy that complies with the General Framework provided here. Asthma registers must be an integral component of the school policy. These must be kept by AGSV Member Schools, allowing them to identify and communicate with students/parents regarding Thunderstorm Asthma risk.

If and when required, Member Schools must inform the AGSV about students who require a management plan when Thunderstorm Asthma warnings are forecast. This would include but not only, when students from Member Schools are part of AGSV representative teams.

6. Implications for practice

- a) The AGSV must make AGSV Member Schools aware of this Thunderstorm Asthma General Framework
- b) AGSV Member Schools must develop a school Thunderstorm Asthma Policy and sign an annual attestation that the policy complies with this General Framework (see Appendix 2)
- c) The AGSV will monitor the ‘public information’ relevant to the General Framework and advise Member Schools accordingly

- https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/earlychildhoodupdate/Pages/ecupdate_prepare_your_early_childhood_education_service.aspx
 - <http://emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare/#thunderstorm-asthma/preparing-for-thunderstorm-asthma>
 - <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/environmental-health/climate-weather-and-public-health/thunderstorm-asthma>
 - <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/environmental-health/climate-weather-and-public-health/thunderstorm-asthma/forecasting>
 - App. <https://apps.apple.com/au/app/vicemergency/id356559665>
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4. Background Information

This background information is provided on an 'as is' basis and reflects the current community information available. Schools are urged to regularly monitor any updates of this community information as part of their normal processes.

The epidemic thunderstorm asthma forecast operates indicatively between 1 October and 31 December. It combines the forecasting of a certain uncommon type of thunderstorm and grass pollen counts across Victoria. The forecast spans three days (today, tomorrow and the day after) and uses a colour-coded scale from low to high risk: green (low), orange (moderate) and red (high).

- A **low risk** (green) forecast means that the elements necessary for an epidemic thunderstorm asthma event are not expected and an event is unlikely.
- A **moderate risk** (orange) forecast means that one of the elements necessary for an event may be present (i.e. a high pollen forecast or a severe thunderstorm storm with strong winds) and there is a moderate chance of an epidemic thunderstorm asthma event occurring.
- A **high risk** (red) forecast means that a high pollen forecast and severe thunderstorm(s) with strong winds are likely to be present increasing the risk of an epidemic thunderstorm asthma event occurring.

Forecasts **are not** a formal 'warning' and are designed to **inform people at risk**, in the first instance and others, that they should be prepared. The forecast only indicates whether the chance of an epidemic thunderstorm asthma event occurring is increased – a higher forecast does not mean that an event is certain to happen, nor does a lower forecast mean that an event will not happen. The forecasting system is not designed to forecast the risk of individual's experiencing asthma and hay fever symptoms, which occur every year during the grass pollen season.

On a day of high risk the relevant authorities will issue up-to-date relevant advice and warnings on the VicEmergency warning platform. For up-to-date pollen levels in each state, check the website here or visit the relevant site: Victoria: AusPollen website or app.

Vic Emergency advises **that everyone in the community should know the signs and symptoms of asthma**, and know the four steps of **asthma first aid** so they know what to do if they or someone is having an asthma attack. The AGSV assumes that member schools will provide that training to staff as part of their student management processes.