



Department
for Education

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Date: 7 August 2020

Lynne Regent – CEO, Anaphylaxis Campaign

Carla Jones – CEO, Allergy UK

Professor Adam Fox – Chair, British Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology

Dear Lynne, Carla and Adam,

Thank you for your letter of 8th July 2020, asking about the administration of emergency anaphylaxis treatment in schools, whilst governed by current social distancing requirements. I do apologise for the delay in responding, which was due to us taking time to fully consider the important points you raised. I am responding on behalf of Andrew McCully.

I can confirm that our approach to supporting children with medical conditions who return to school will be similar to how it was before the COVID-19 pandemic, as outlined in the [supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#) guidance. We advise that this be considered alongside the guidance on [safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including the use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#), which includes advice on giving first aid.

As part of their risk assessment, schools will want to consider measures so that specialists, therapists, clinicians, and other staff can continue to provide support that is needed. Any member of school staff providing support to a pupil with medical needs should have received suitable training.

As you say, in the case of an anaphylactic reaction, it is critical that assistance is given immediately. Following your letter, we have therefore liaised with Public Health England and I can confirm that we are now taking forward updates to our [guidance on the full opening of schools](#), as well as our guidance for other education settings, to make absolutely clear that children and young people should always receive prompt and appropriate treatment, in the event of a medical emergency. We will be explicit that, in the case of a medical emergency, people do not need to stay 2 metres apart.

I hope that will be welcome news and I am grateful to you for raising this important matter with us.

Sarah Lewis

Director, Early Years and Schools Group