

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref KW/04935/20
Lynne Regent - CEO, Anaphylaxis Campaign
Carla Jones - CEO, Allergy UK
Professor Adam Fox - Chair, British Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology

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1 September 2020

Dear Lynne, Carla and Adam,

Thank you for your email of 14 August regarding the arrangements for administering emergency anaphylaxis treatment in schools from September whilst social distancing guidelines are in place.

As described in your letter, anaphylaxis is a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction which always requires an emergency response. In 2017 regulations were amended to allow all schools in the United Kingdom, including independent schools, to purchase and hold spare adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) for use when a pupil has an allergic reaction at school but their own prescribed device is either not available or failed to operate correctly.

The Welsh Government has published guidance on [Supporting learners with healthcare needs](#) and [The use of emergency adrenaline auto-injectors in schools](#). This guidance provides information on how schools should respond to pupils at risk of anaphylaxis and emergency procedures.

To take into account the changes required as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, we have published updated [Operational guidance for schools and settings from the autumn term](#), which will assist local authorities and schools to continue to plan and make arrangements for the new school year.

The guidance is clear that it is not always possible to adhere to social distancing regulations within the school environment, particularly when working with learners who need close contact care. The use of protective personal equipment (PPE) by staff within education settings should be based on a clear assessment of risk, taking into account each individual setting and the needs of the individual learner. Schools, settings and local authorities already have risk assessment processes in place, which should be used to identify the need for the use of PPE.

In the event of a medical emergency, children and young people should always receive prompt and appropriate treatment. The healthcare needs and AAI guidance I have

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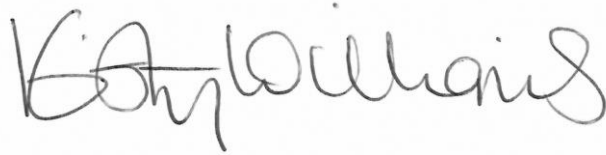
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

referred to above will continue to guide schools on how to respond in emergency situations. It is to be expected that in a medical emergency people may need to be less than two metres apart and may be administering emergency medical care without PPE. We will make this clear on our website as part of our [frequently asked questions](#) which are updated regularly.

Thank you for drawing this important issue to my attention and I hope this helps alleviate your concerns on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

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