

# Anaphylaxis notifications

Presentation to AT-SIG, Parkville

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## Law – in summary

**All Victorian hospitals are now required to notify the department of all cases of anaphylaxis presenting to the hospital for treatment:**

- **Regardless of age**
- **Regardless of whether first reaction or not**
- **Regardless of what caused the reaction (e.g., food, drug, vaccine, insect, unknown etc)**

**Commenced 1 November 2018.**

**Australian first – possibly, world.**

# How did we get here?

## **Victorian Coronial report**

- 2013 – Dairy-allergic boy died after consuming dairy-containing coconut drink
- Imported coconut drink - failed to declare presence of dairy as an ingredient
- Product provided to hospital at time – not reported to Food Safety Unit (FSU) or other authority
- As a consequence, took 6 weeks for food recall
- Presenting a risk to other dairy-allergic consumers
- Coroner saw this as unacceptable & recommended reporting to DHHS be mandated, with food-related reactions to be referred to FSU – Minister accepted.

# Notification manner and period (Regulations)

Suspected cause of anaphylaxis	Notification manner	Notification period
Consumption of packaged food	By telephone	Immediately
All other causes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unpackaged food from food premises</li><li>• Food - other</li><li>• Blood-derived products</li><li>• Drugs</li><li>• Insect venom</li><li>• Vaccine</li><li>• Other causes e.g. latex, exercise</li><li>• Unknown</li></ul>	By online accessible Smart Form	Within 5 days of initial diagnosis

# Notification details (Regulations)

<b>Suspected cause of anaphylaxis (Food)</b>	<b>Additional notification details</b>
Consumption of packaged food	Type of food product Brand of food product Date and time of consumption
Unpackaged food from food premises	Details of food consumed Name of food premises Date and time of consumption
Food - other	Details of the food consumed

# Notification details

Suspected cause of anaphylaxis (Non-food)	Additional notification details
Blood-derived product	Name of product Batch number
Drug	Type of drug Name of drug
Vaccine	Type of vaccine Name of vaccine
Insect venom	Type of insect
Other	Details of suspected cause of anaphylaxis
Unknown	Any relevant details

## Anaphylaxis notifications

### Notify now

To report a case of anaphylaxis where the suspected cause is the consumption of packaged food, please phone the Department of Health and Human Services immediately on 1300 651 160 (24/7).

[Anaphylaxis caused by packaged food – phone 1300 651 160 \(24/7\)](#)

For all other cases of anaphylaxis where the suspected cause is NOT the consumption of packaged food, please report by completing the online notification form within 5 days of the initial diagnosis.

[Anaphylaxis NOT caused by packaged food – complete online form](#)

The online notification form is hosted by the Commonwealth Government's Department of Industry, Innovation and Science. The online form allows you to save partially completed forms for later submission. The information you provide in these forms is protected and only visible by authorised staff within the department.

### Other reporting systems

Health services should also report anaphylaxis presentations to drugs and medicines to the Commonwealth Therapeutic Goods Administration through its [adverse events online reporting form](#) [↗](#).

Anaphylaxis presentations as a result of a vaccine should also be reported to the Surveillance of Adverse Events Following Immunisation In the Community (SAEFVIC) public health partnership, who are a member of the Adverse Events Following Immunisation - Clinical Assessment Network (AEFI-CAN). Such reactions should be reported online at the [AEFI-CAN website](#) [↗](#).

# Online notification form

Anaphylaxis Notification

Anaphylaxis Notifying Body

Case Details

Save For Later 

## Anaphylaxis Notification

This form is used for the statutorily required notification of anaphylaxis presentations by Victorian anaphylaxis reporting bodies to the Victorian Department of Health & Human Services, as required by the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2009*.

The form should take 3-5 minutes to complete.

Please ensure that the case has been informed of the following:

- their diagnosis,
- that you are providing this information to the department (as required by the *Health Records Act 2001*), and
- that the department may contact them for further information about their illness.

Commonwealth and State privacy legislation does not negate the responsibility to notify, nor to provide the information requested on this form.

**A confirmed case of anaphylaxis requires clinical evidence only, as per the below definition, whether or not the case presents with one or more resolved symptoms.**

# Online notification form

Fields marked with \* are required

By ticking the checked box, I confirm that this anaphylaxis case meets the above case definition

This anaphylaxis case has been medically diagnosed, as per the case definition \*

## Suspected cause of the anaphylaxis

Select the **most likely suspected** cause of the anaphylaxis \*

- Blood-derived products
- Drug
- Food - Packaged food
- Food - Unpackaged from food premises
- Food - Other
- Insect venom
- Vaccine
- Unknown
- Other (not listed above)

Specify the likely source above and provide any other suspected sources in the *Clinical*

Continue

# Cross-branch response

- **CDES**
  - Epidemiologist
  - Surveillance Officers
- **CDPC**
  - PHOs
  - On-call officers
  - Managers
- **FSU – RIM team**
  - Food Safety Officers
  - Manager

# Purpose of public health response

## **To minimise the morbidity and mortality associated with anaphylaxis by identifying:**

- mislabeled packaged food in the marketplace (and overseeing its removal); and
- poor food allergen management at council-registered food premises that provide unpackaged food such as meals at restaurants or facilities,

**in order to implement appropriate public health interventions where possible.**

## Packaged food response

- **FSU-coordinated investigation, with a view to determining whether a food recall is required or not; and if so, overseeing this.**
- **Likely that batches of (packaged) food will be submitted for analysis by FSU, DHHS.**
- **Similar to current response to food recall investigations where a food allergen is the suspected reason for recall.**
- **If a reaction is linked to a council-registered food premises (e.g., café, restaurant, child-care centre), after initial investigation by FSU, likely to be referred to council.**

# Unpackaged food from council premises

- **On-site follow-up by EHO to:**
  - ensure compliance with Food Standards Code,
  - good allergen management, practices and staff understanding,
  - adequate food handler training
  - FSP compliance.
- **If any samples taken for analysis, we have advised EHOS to complete sampling form/App as follows:**
  - under 'testing purpose' – tick 'follow-up sample', and
  - under 'details' – write 'anaphylaxis notification under PHW Act', and
  - in the 'additional information' free space – record useful information to the lab, such as what the case is allergic to

## Amendments to sampling forms and lab database

- **Amendments are being made by FSU to the food sampling form, App and the laboratory database, to include anaphylaxis notifications.**
- **Expected to be finalised and released in first quarter of 2019.**
- **Until this is completed, we have asked councils to complete paperwork, as per the previous slide.**

## Information and further questions

- **A web page has been developed with FAQs at:**  
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/anaphylaxis-notifications>
- **A dedicated email inbox for external queries:**  
[anaphylaxis@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:anaphylaxis@dhhs.vic.gov.au)
- **Fiona Jones – 0430-408-666**

# Further information

To receive this publication in an accessible format, email [anaphylaxis@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:anaphylaxis@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

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