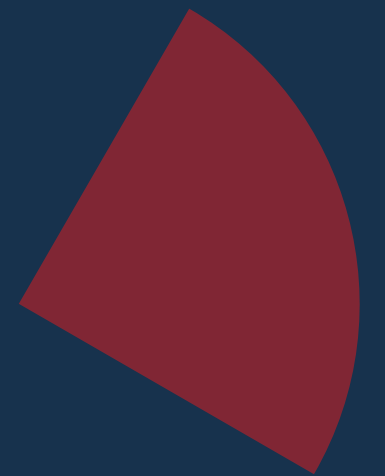


Medical needs, allergy safety and near-miss reporting

What DSLs and school leaders need to know now

Education Safeguarding DSL Network Briefing
Tuesday 15 September 2026

Amanda Wiser | Sensory and Physical Support Team



1. Why this matters

A safeguarding and leadership issue, not only a medical procedure

1 WHY NOW

The position schools should act on

Allergy safety guidance is statutory. Schools should ensure their policy, training and emergency arrangements are ready and understood.

Important distinction

The wider proposed replacement medical-conditions guidance has not replaced the existing statutory medical-conditions guidance.



Protect children



Support confident staff



Learn before harm occurs

2. What schools should review

A rapid readiness check across policy, people and practice

2 REVIEW

01 Leadership

Named senior oversight and governance assurance

02 Policies

Medical conditions and separate allergy safety arrangements

03 Plans

Current IHPs, clinical plans and pupil-specific risks

04 Readiness

Training, medication access and emergency response

05 Records

Incidents, near misses, actions and learning

Use the review to identify gaps and owners, not simply to confirm that a policy exists.

3. Near misses: record, review, learn

The purpose is prevention, not blame

3 LEARNING

RECORD

REVIEW

LEARN

ACT

What to examine

Policy gaps
Training needs
Communication failures

What may change

Individual plans
Supervision and controls
Emergency arrangements

Review trigger

Do not wait for the annual cycle when a serious incident or significant near miss reveals a weakness.

4. Support being developed for schools

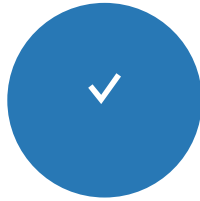
A practical Birmingham offer, coordinated with health partners

4 SUPPORT



Templates

Model policies and planning tools



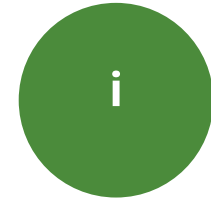
Checklists

Readiness and quality assurance



Learning

Webinars, training and guidance



Updates

Medical Needs Noticeboard in Inclusion House

Resources will be updated as local pathways and national guidance are clarified.

Questions schools may have

Clear answers for discussion, with local detail kept under review

Is every near miss a safeguarding referral?

No automatic assumption. Use the established AIN route and also follow safeguarding procedures where the circumstances indicate a safeguarding concern.

Do we need a separate reporting portal?

Current advice is to use the existing AIN reporting tool rather than create a separate process.

Who should oversee this in school?

Schools should have clear senior leadership ownership and governance oversight, with strong links to the DSL and health and safety leads.

What should happen after a near miss?

Record, review contributory factors, agree actions and update plans, training, controls or policy where needed.

Has all wider medical guidance changed?

No. The separate allergy-safety guidance is statutory; the existing medical-conditions guidance remains in place pending any further national update.

Discussion