

ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. BACKGROUND

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common allergens in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, some insect stings and some medication.

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is the knowledge of those students who have been diagnosed at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens), and prevention of exposure to these triggers. Partnerships between the school and parents are important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from the student while at school.

Adrenaline given through an EpiPen® autoinjector to the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

2. PURPOSE

- To provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the student's schooling.
- To raise the awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy in the school community
- To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for each student.
- To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

3. INDIVIDUAL ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT PLANS

- The College Principal and Campus Principals will ensure that an individual management plan is developed, in consultation with the student's parents/carers, for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis.
- The individual anaphylaxis management plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls, and where possible, before the first day of school attendance.
- The individual anaphylaxis management plan will set out the following:
 - Information about the diagnosis, including the type of allergy or allergies the student has (based on a diagnosis from a medical practitioner).

- Strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of school staff, for in-school and out of school settings including camps and excursions.
- The name of the persons responsible for implementing the strategies.
- Information on where the student's medication will be stored.
- The student's emergency contact details.
- An emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan), provided by the parents/carer, that:
 - Sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction.
 - Is signed by a medical practitioner who was treating the child on the date the practitioner signs the emergency procedures plan; and
 - Includes an up to date photograph of the student.
- The student's individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/carers:
 - Annually, and as applicable,
 - If the student's condition changes, or
 - Immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school or elsewhere
- It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to:
 - Provide the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan)
 - Inform the school if their child's medical condition changes, and if relevant, provide an updated emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan)
 - Provide an up to date photo of the student for the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) when the plan is provided to the school and when it is reviewed.

4. COMMUNICATION PLAN

- The College Principal will be responsible for ensuring that a communication plan is developed to provide information to all staff, students and parents about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy.
- The communication plan will include information about what steps will be taken to respond to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in a classroom, in the school yard, on school excursions, on school camps, and special event days.
- Volunteers and casual relief staff who teach, or who are likely to come into contact with students at risk of anaphylaxis will be informed of their identity and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in their care by the Daily Organiser or Campus Principal.
- All staff will be briefed once each semester by a staff member who has up to date anaphylaxis management training on:
 - The school's anaphylaxis management policy
 - The causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis
 - The identities of students diagnosed as at risk of anaphylaxis and where their medication is located.
 - How to use an autoadrenaline injecting device (EpiPen®)
 - The school's first aid and emergency response procedures

5. STAFF TRAINING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- All teachers and other school staff will have up to date training in anaphylaxis management.
- Training will be provided to all staff as soon as practicable after the students enrolls and wherever possible, before the first day of attendance at the school. Where this is not possible, an interim plan will be developed in consultation with the parents/carers.
- The school's first aid procedures and the student's emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

*This Policy was last ratified by School Council in **(November 2008)***