

# Anaphylaxis Policy

2020

## Rationale:

- Anaphylaxis is an acute allergic reaction to certain food items and insect stings. The condition develops in approximately 1-2% of the population. The most common allergens are nuts, eggs, cow's milk and bee or other insect stings, and some medications.

## Aims:

- To provide a safe and healthy school environment that takes into consideration the needs of all students, including those who may suffer from anaphylaxis.
- To raise community awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy
- To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the 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.

## Implementation:

- Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening condition.
- Signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis include hives/rash, tingling in or around the mouth, abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhoea, facial swelling, cough or wheeze, difficulty breathing or swallowing, loss of consciousness or collapse, or cessation of breathing.
- Anaphylaxis is best prevented by knowing and avoiding the allergens.
- The principal will ensure that an individual management plan is developed, in consultation
- with the student's parents, 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 their first day of school.
- The plan will include an emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan), provided by the parent, that is signed by the medical practitioner, and sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction.
- The individual anaphylaxis management plan will also 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 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.
- It is the responsibility of the parent 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 for the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) when the plan is provided to the school and when it is reviewed.
  - Provide an EpiPen, Anapen or similar as described in ASCIA Plan.
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- The 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 of students at risk of anaphylaxis will be informed of students at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction
- The community will be informed of anaphylaxis and the need to minimise exposure to potential allergens by simple whole school rules such as not allowing food sharing, and restricting food to that approved by parents keeping the lawns well mown, ensuring children always wear shoes, and not allowing drink cans at school.



- The school won't ban certain types of foods (eg: nuts) as it is not practicable to do so, and is not a strategy recommended by the Department of Education or the Royal Children's Hospital. However, the school will request that parents do not send those items to school if at all possible; that the canteen eliminate or reduce the likelihood of such allergens, and the school will reinforce the rules about not sharing and not eating foods provided from home.
- All staff will be anaphylaxis trained and 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 at risk of anaphylaxis and where their medication is located
  - how to use an auto-adrenaline injecting device (EpiPen or AnaPen)
  - the school's first aid and emergency response procedures
- At other times while the student is under the care or supervision of the school, including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days, the principal must ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff present who have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.
- Wherever possible, training will take place before the student's first day at school. Where this is not possible, an interim plan will be developed in consultation with the parents.

**Evaluation:**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

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