

## ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

### BACKGROUND

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

*The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of those children who have been diagnosed at risk, awareness and prevention of exposure to allergens (triggers).*

*Partnerships between home and school are important in ensuring triggers are kept away from the student 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.*

### 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy in the school community.
- 1.3 To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis to assess risks and develop risk minimisation and management strategies for the student.
- 1.4 To ensure each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, the school anaphylaxis policy and procedures, and how to respond to an anaphylactic reaction.

### 2.0 INDIVIDUAL ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT PLANS:

- 2.1 The Principal and First Aid Coordinator will ensure an individual anaphylaxis management plan will be developed, in consultation with the student's parents and medical practitioner, for any student diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis.
- 2.2 The individual anaphylaxis management plan and teacher training will be in place as soon as practicable when the student enrolls and where possible, before their first day of school.
- 2.3 The 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 of 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.

***Note – Appendix 2 of the Anaphylaxis Guidelines contains advice about a range of prevention strategies that can be put in place***

- The name of the person/s responsible for implementing the strategies while at school.
- Information detailing where the student's medication is stored.
- The student's emergency contact details.
- An emergency procedures plan (ASCI Action Plan – see appendix), provided by the parent, that:
  - Sets out the emergency procedure to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction;
  - Is signed by the treating medical practitioner whom is treating the child on the date the practitioner signs the emergency procedures plan;
  - Includes an up to date photograph of the student.

- 2.4 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,
  - Immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school.
- 2.5 It is the responsibility of the parent to:
- Provide an emergency procedure plan (ASCI Action Plan)
  - Inform the school if their child's medical condition changes, and provide an updated procedure plan.
  - Provide an up to date photo for the emergency procedure plan when the plan is provided to the school or reviewed.
  - Provide an (within expiry date) EpiPen and a second EpiPen for out of school care if attending ASP.

### 3.0 COMMUNICATION PLAN

- 3.1 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 policy.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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 by a student in their care by: Assistant Principal, office staff and/or the student's classroom teacher, as well as an alert in the class roll.
- 3.4 All staff will be briefed 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 EpiPen autoinjector injecting device.
  - The school's first aid and emergency response procedures.

**Note: An information PowerPoint Presentation will be used at Staff Briefings for this purpose**

### 4.0 STAFF TRAINING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSES

- 4.1 Teachers and other school staff, who conduct classes which risk of anaphylaxis attend, or give instruction to students at risk of anaphylaxis, must have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.
- 4.2 At other times while the student is under care of supervision of the school (such as playtimes in school grounds, on school excursions, on school 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.
- 4.3 The Principal, in consultation with First Aid Coordinator, will identify the school staff to be trained based on a risk assessment.

- 4.4 Training will be provided to these staff as soon as practicable after the student enrolls. Wherever possible, training will take place before the student's first day of school. Where this is not possible, an interim plan will be developed in consultation with the parents.
- 4.5 The school's first aid procedures and student emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.
- 4.6 If an EpiPen is used an ambulance will be called (at the cost to the parents)

#### APPENDICES

- *Appendix 1a Annual Risk Management Checklist*
- *Appendix 1b Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklist Information*
- *Appendix 2 Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan*

#### EVALUATION

The Principal, staff and school community will undertake evaluation of the policy and program.

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**Status:** *Approved by School Council 2015*

**Policy Review Date:** *2016*