

Anaphylaxis Management

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, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cows' milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication.

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

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

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 awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy to the school community.
- To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimization strategies and management strategies for the student.
- To ensure each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

INDIVIDUAL ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT PLANS

The principal will ensure that an individual management plan is developed, in consultation with the student's parents, for the student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis.

The individual anaphylaxis plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls and where possible before their first day of school.

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 minimize 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.
- Location of student's medication
- The student's emergency contact details.
- An emergency procedures plan (ASCIA), provided by the parent, 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.

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.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

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 will be informed of students at risk of an anaphylactic reaction by the relevant classroom teacher or welfare officer.

Staff will be briefed each semester:

- The schools 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 autoadrenaline injecting device
- The school's first aid and emergency response procedures
- Location of school epipen

STAFF TRAINING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

All staff every two years will be trained in an anaphylaxis management training course.

Staff will be shown the correct procedures for managing an anaphylaxis reaction at the start of the year and at the start of second semester.

This policy will be reviewed in 2016 .

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

2014