

ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT POLICY

RATIONALE

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction this 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, 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 auto-injector (e.g. EpiPen) to the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

PURPOSE

To ensure that the school manages students at risk of anaphylaxis and meets legislative requirements. The school will comply with MO706 and associated guidelines – see below.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. INDIVIDUAL ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT PLANS

- 1.1 The school 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
- 1.2 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
- 1.3 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 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 camp and excursions
- 1.4 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 etc.
 - Immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school
- 1.5 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

2. COMMUNICATION PLAN

- 2.1 The school will ensure that a communication plan is developed to provide information to all staff, students and parents about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management plan
- 2.2 The communication plan will include information about what steps will be taken to respond to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in the classroom, in the school yard, on school excursions, on school camps and special event days
- 2.3 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 the CRT and volunteer organisers
- 2.4 All staff will be briefed twice each year 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-injector (e.g. EpiPen)
 - The school's first aid and emergency response procedures

3. STAFF TRAINING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- 3.1 All school staff will undertake the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCI) e-training course and have their competency in using an autoinjector tested in person within 30 days of completing the course – valid for two years.
- 3.2 The school will nominate two staff members from each campus to undertake face-to-face training to skill them in providing competency checks to assess their colleagues' ability to use an auto-injector (e.g. EpiPen) and become School Anaphylaxis Supervisors – valid for three years.
- 3.3 In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, the school's first aid and emergency management response procedures and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan must be followed

Princes Hill is not a nut-free environment

REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed annually