



ANAPHYLAXIS

Policy

AIM:

Students enrolled at our school who suffer from significant health problems deserve and require a supportive and flexible school environment that understands and responds to their individual needs. The aim of this policy is to put procedures into place that minimise the risk of an anaphylactic reaction by students under our care.

GUIDELINES:

1. Anaphylactic reactions can be life threatening. Anaphylactic students may be allergic to nuts/nut products, grass pollens, medications, bee stings, etc.
2. Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (such as a food or an insect bite). Reactions usually begin within minutes of exposure and can progress rapidly over a period of up to two hours or more. Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and always requires an emergency response. Fortunately anaphylactic reactions are uncommon and usually preventable.
3. Due to the age of our students, it is not reasonable, even with education in regard to the issue, to assume the students will take appropriate precautions to minimise the risks of anaphylactic reactions by their peers. **Therefore, parents and guardians may be advised not to include nuts and nut products, especially peanut butter and Nutella, in their child's lunch or recess food items.**
4. It is impossible to effectively ban the many products that have 'traces of nuts', therefore other procedures are in place to minimise the risk to anaphylactic students. It is also impossible to guarantee compliance with this policy by all parents/guardians and there will be times when other people prepare lunches for students, therefore other precautions are taken by the school to minimise the risk to anaphylactic students.
5. **Procedures:**
 - 5.1 The parents/carers of anaphylactic students are required to meet with the Student Wellbeing Officer and /or Principal / Assistant Principal and key staff to develop an individual plan that details the student's needs in the event of an anaphylactic reaction. In this meeting arrangements are to be made in regard to the provision of Epi Pens by the parents.
 - 5.2 All staff associated with anaphylactic students will be made aware of the student's condition and requirements. Staff will be provided with professional development as required, including instructions in relation to using the Epi Pen. Professional Development in this area will be updated regularly and, as a minimum, be revisited at the beginning of each school year.
 - 5.3 Relief teachers will be provided with a copy of this policy.
 - 5.4 Special arrangements may be made for anaphylactic students for class parties etc. NB. Sharing of food procedures. Anaphylactic student class seating arrangements may need to be monitored by staff member(s) in classrooms to minimise the risk of these students coming into contact with food containing nuts or allergens.
 - 5.5 Items sold in the School Canteen will be compatible with our Anaphylaxis Policy.

6. Action Plan in the Event of an Anaphylactic Episode:

- 6.1** Student has an anaphylactic attack.
- 6.2** A staff member will collect Anaphylaxis First Aid Box from first aid room and student's **OWN EpiPen**, then advise office staff of emergency situation.
- 6.3** The injection will be administered via correct EpiPen. Note time of injection.
- 6.4** Office staff will immediately ring the ambulance stating that the student has had an anaphylactic attack and that the situation is critical. The caller will also state the time that the injection was administered.
- 6.5** Office staff should ensure senior staff are aware of the emergency situation and place representative at the front of the school to wait for ambulance.
- 6.6** All used injections must be given to the ambulance officers with student's name and time of injection written on it.
- 6.7** Contact Emergency Management on 9589 6266 and provide details of incident/emergency.

7. First Aid Room Anaphylactic Procedures:

- 7.1** Know the identity of students who are at risk of anaphylaxis.
- 7.2** Ensure correct paperwork is obtained from parent (ie. Anaphylaxis Management Plan and Action plan for Anaphylaxis and current photo.)
- 7.3** Display Photo of student and Action plan in Sick Bay, Staffroom notice board, Classroom and Canteen.
- 7.4** Obtain EpiPen from parent and check for expiry date.
- 7.5** Name and store EpiPen in an unlocked suitable cupboard, ie. First Aid Room
- 7.6** Ensure EpiPen is not cloudy or out of date, e.g. at the beginning of each term and make contact with Parent if EpiPen needs to be replaced.
- 7.7** Develop Anaphylaxis Emergency Procedure and circulate to all staff.
- 7.8** Classroom teacher to ensure that whenever the student participates in off-site activities (e.g. Camps, excursions, sport etc.) EpiPen and Action plans need to be taken with teacher in charge of activity.
- 7.9** Regularly review school management strategies and practise scenarios for responding to an emergency.
- 7.10** Review student's Anaphylaxis Management Plan annually or if the student's situation changes.

ANAPHYLACTIC ATTACK SYMPTOMS:

- cough or wheeze
- difficulty breathing or swallowing
- breathing stops
- loss of consciousness or collapse

HOW TO ADMINISTER EPIPEN:

- **Remove grey safety cap**
- **Place black tip on child's outer thigh (at right angle to leg)**
- **Push hard and hold in place and count slowly to ten, then remove**
- **Massage the injection site for 10-20 seconds.**