

Anaphylaxis Management Policy

Effective February 2022

Background

Anaphylaxis is a severe, allergic reaction that 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 and certain insect stings (particularly bee stings).

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of the student who has been diagnosed as at risk, awareness of allergens, and prevention of exposure to those allergens. Partnerships between schools and parents/guardians are important in helping the student avoid exposure.

Adrenaline given through an adrenaline auto injector (such as an EpiPen® or Anapen®) into the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the 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/guidelines in the school community.*
- *To engage with parents/guardians of each student at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies for the student.*
- *To ensure that staff have knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's guidelines and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.*

Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plans

The administration team will ensure that an *Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan* is developed in consultation with the student's parents/guardians, for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis. The Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student is enrolled and where possible before their first day of school.

The student's Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/guardians:

- *Annually, and as applicable,*
- *If the student's condition changes,*
- *Immediately after the student has an anaphylactic reaction.*

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to:

- provide an ASCIA Action Plan completed by the child's medical practitioner with a current photo,
- inform the school if their child's medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated ASCIA Action Plan.

Communication

The admin team will be responsible for providing information to all staff, students and parents/guardians about anaphylaxis and development of the school's anaphylaxis management strategies.

Volunteers and casual relief staff will be informed on arrival at the school if they are caring for a student at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

Staff Training and Emergency Response

Teachers and other school staff who have contact with the student at risk of anaphylaxis, are encouraged to undertake training in anaphylaxis management including how to respond in an emergency.

At other times, while the student is under the care or supervision of the school, including excursions, break times, camps and special event days, Admin must ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff present who have up to date training and know how to recognise, prevent and treat anaphylaxis.

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 student's parents/guardians. The school's first aid procedures and student's *ASCIA Action Plan* will be followed when responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

Risk Minimisation

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis is the identification of allergens and prevention of exposure to them. The school can employ a range of practical prevention strategies to minimise exposure to known allergens. The table below provides examples of risk minimisation strategies.

Setting	Considerations
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display a copy of the students <i>ASCIA Action Plan</i> in the classroom. • Teacher/school to liaise with parents/guardians about food related activities ahead of time. • Use non-food rewards • Never give food from outside sources to a student who is at risk of Anaphylaxis without parental consent. • Be aware of the possibility of hidden allergens when cooking at school. • Have regular discussions with students about the importance of washing hands, eating their own food and not sharing food. • Casual/relief teachers should be provided with a copy of the student's <i>ASCIA Action Plan</i> through the class relief folder. <p>Other parents within the classroom to be informed of the allergy within the classroom.</p>
Canteen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provider to demonstrate satisfactory training in the area of anaphylaxis and its implications on food handling. • With permission from parents/guardians, canteen staff to be briefed about students at risk of anaphylaxis, preventative strategies in place and the information in their <i>ASCIA Action Plans</i>. • Plans to be displayed in the canteen area • Products labelled 'may contain traces of peanuts/tree nuts' should not be served to the student known to be allergic to peanuts/tree nuts. • Be aware of the potential for cross contamination when storing, preparing, handling or displaying food. • Ensure tables and surfaces are wiped clean regularly
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student with anaphylactic responses to insects should wear shoes at all times. • Outdoor bins will remain covered. • The student should keep open drinks (e.g. drinks in cans) covered while outdoors. • Staff trained to provide an emergency response to anaphylaxis should be readily available during non-class times (e.g. recess and lunch). • Staff on duty will communicate that there is an anaphylactic emergency without leaving the child experiencing the reaction unattended by sending a runner to the office with a pink slip or using their phones to call admin for assistance.

<p>On-site events (e.g: sports carnivals) and special occasions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For special occasions, class teachers will consult parents/guardians in advance to either develop an alternative food menu or request the parents/guardians to send a meal for the student. • Parents/guardians of other students will be informed in advance about foods that may cause allergic reactions in students at risk of anaphylaxis as well as being informed of the school's allergen minimisation strategies • Party balloons should not be used if a student is allergic to latex. • Staff will know where the adrenaline autoinjector is located and how to access it if required. • Staff will avoid using food in activities or games, including rewards. • For sporting events, it may be appropriate to take the student's adrenaline autoinjector to the oval. If the weather is warm, the autoinjector should be stored in an esky to protect it from the heat.
<p>Off-site School Settings (e.g: camps, excursions)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When planning school camps, a risk management plan for the student at risk of anaphylaxis will be developed in consultation with parents/guardians. • Accommodation providers will be advised in advance of any student with food allergies. • Staff will liaise with parents/guardians to develop alternative menus or allow students to bring their own meals. • The student's adrenaline autoinjector and ASCIA Action Plan and a mobile phone will be taken on camp. • A team of staff who have been trained in the recognition of anaphylaxis and the administration of the adrenaline autoinjector will accompany the student on camp. However, all staff present need to be aware if there is a student at risk of anaphylaxis. • Staff will develop an emergency procedure that sets out clear roles and responsibilities in the event of an anaphylactic reaction. • Staff will be aware of what local emergency services are in the area and how to access them. • The adrenaline autoinjector will remain close to the student at risk of anaphylaxis and staff will be aware of its location at all times. • A student with allergies to insect venoms should always wear closed shoes when outdoors. • Cooking and art and craft games will not involve the use of known allergens. • Staff will consider the potential exposure to allergens when consuming food on buses/airlines and in accommodation.

