



ANAPHYLAXIS

POLICY

Definition:

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. Signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis include hives/rash, tingling in or around the mouth, abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhoea, facial swelling, cough or wheeze, difficulty breathing or swallowing, loss of consciousness or collapse, or cessation of breathing.

Rationale:

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. Partnerships between schools and parents are important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from the student while at school.

The school will not ban certain types of foods (eg: nuts) as it is not practicable to do so, and it is not a strategy recommended by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development or the Royal Children's Hospital. However, the school will reinforce the rules about not sharing and not eating foods provided from home.

Aims:

- To minimise the risk of an anaphylactic reaction occurring while the child is in the care of the school.
- To ensure that staff members respond appropriately to an anaphylactic reaction by initiating appropriate treatment, including competently administering an adrenaline auto injector.
- To raise the school community's awareness of anaphylaxis and its management through education and policy implementation.
- 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.

Implementation:

Anaphylaxis is best prevented by knowing and avoiding the allergens.

Our school will manage anaphylaxis by:-

- identifying susceptible students, knowing their allergens and ensuring all staff can recognise these students.
- informing the community about anaphylaxis via the newsletter.
- requiring parents to provide an Anaphylaxis Action Plan developed by a health professional and an adrenaline auto injector if necessary, both of which will be maintained in the First Aid Room and visible to all staff. A copy of the Action plan will also be displayed in the classroom.
- ensuring all staff are provided with regular professional development on the identification and response to anaphylaxis and the proper use of an adrenaline auto injector.
- Checking expiry dates on adrenaline auto injectors and asking parents to replace them.
- ensuring all staff understand the emergency action plan for the management of anaphylaxis
- not allowing trading and sharing of food, food utensils and food containers.

- liaising with parents/carers about food related activities ahead of time.
- informing parents/carers of other students in the class about foods that may cause allergic reactions and request that they avoid them when bringing birthday or party treats from home.
- asking parents to provide a safe treat box for special occasions such as birthdays and Christmas.
- restricting the use of food in crafts, cooking class and science experiments depending on the allergies of particular students.
- having regular discussions with students about the importance of washing hands, eating their own food and not sharing food.

Evaluation:

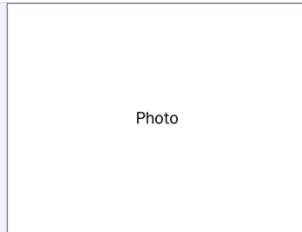
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in September 2012

Action plan for Anaphylaxis

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____



Known severe allergies: _____

Parent/carer name(s) _____

Work Ph: _____

Home Ph: _____

Mobile Ph: _____

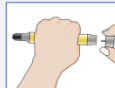
Plan prepared by: _____

Dr. _____

Signed _____

Date _____

How to give EpiPen® or EpiPen® Jr



1. Form fist around EpiPen® and pull off grey cap.



2. Place black end against outer mid-thigh.



3. Push down **HARD** until a click is heard or felt and hold in place for 10 seconds.



4. Remove EpiPen® and be careful not to touch the needle. Massage the injection site for 10 seconds.

MILD TO MODERATE ALLERGIC REACTION

- swelling of lips, face, eyes
- hives or welts
- abdominal pain, vomiting

ACTION

- stay with child and call for help
- give medications (if prescribed)
- locate EpiPen® or EpiPen® Jr
- contact parent/carer



**watch for signs
of Anaphylaxis**

ANAPHYLAXIS (SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTION)

- difficulty/noisy breathing
- swelling of tongue
- swelling/tightness in throat
- difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice
- wheeze or persistent cough
- loss of consciousness and/or collapse
- pale and floppy (young children)

ACTION

- 1 Give EpiPen® or EpiPen® Jr**
 - 2 Call ambulance. Telephone 000**
 - 3 Contact parent/carer**
- If in doubt, give EpiPen® or EpiPen® Jr**

Additional Instructions _____

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australian society of clinical immunology and allergy inc.

www.allergy.org.au