



Anaphylaxis Policy



Rationale:

- Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common cause in young children is contact with eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, cow milk, wheat, soy, fish and shellfish, bee or other insect stings and some medications. A reaction can develop within minutes of exposure to the allergen.
- Staff, parents and guardians need to be aware that it is not possible to achieve a completely allergen-free environment. The school recognises the need to adopt a range of procedures and risk minimisation strategies to reduce the risk of a child having an anaphylactic reaction.

Aims:

- To minimise the risk of exposure and 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 EpiPen®/Anapen®
- To raise awareness of anaphylaxis and its management through education and policy implementation.

Implementation:

1. Actively seek information to identify students with severe life threatening allergies at enrolment and conduct a risk assessment of the potential for accidental exposure to allergens while the student is in the care of the school.
2. Ensure all students with anaphylaxis have an up to date (annual) written anaphylaxis management plan consistent with DEECD requirements completed by their doctor or pediatrician. Appropriate plan proforma are available at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/health/anaphylaxis.htm>
3. Advise parents/guardians that they are responsible for ensuring that the school is supplied with an EpiPen®/Anapen® for storage at school and any changes to the emergency management of their child's condition.
4. Anaphylaxis plans will be displayed next to the sick bay; all staff will be made aware of the location. Information will also be displayed, with a photograph of the student/s concerned on the walls of the relevant classroom, specialist rooms, staffroom, canteen, Yard Duty bags and Casual Relief Teacher information.
5. Ensure that the Anaphylaxis Response kit is stored in a location that is known to all staff, easily accessible to adults (not locked away); inaccessible to children; and away from direct sources of heat. Clear written instructions on how to use the EpiPen®/Anapen® will be included in the school kit and displayed in the room next to the sick bay.
6. The first aid staff member will be responsible for checking EpiPen®/Anapen® expiry dates and advising the parents a replacement is required.
7. Classes with a child with anaphylaxis will hold a discussion about the condition and prevention strategies at the commencement of the school year. A letter will be sent at the commencement of the school year to the parents of all students in the same class as a child at risk of anaphylaxis, advising them of the condition.
Posters will be displayed in classes of older students
8. Anaphylaxis Management Training will be provided every 3 years to staff by the departments recommended accredited provider. In addition professional development will be provided twice yearly for all staff (including specialist, casual relief, canteen and office staff) on the nature, prevention and treatment of anaphylaxis attacks, including the use of the EpiPen®/Anapen®
9. Ensure that the EpiPen®/Anapen® kit for each child at risk of anaphylaxis is carried by a trained adult on excursions that this child attends.
10. Community Education notices about anaphylaxis will be placed in the Parent Handbook distributed to all families at the commencement of the school year and in the school newsletter, once a term.

Evaluation:

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

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

June 2012