



Anaphylaxis Management

Rationale:

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. It must be treated as a medical emergency requiring immediate treatment and urgent medical attention. Students enrolled at St Patrick's Primary School who suffer from this significant health problem deserve and require a supportive and flexible school environment that understands and responds to their individual needs. The purpose of this policy is to put procedures in place that:

- minimise the risk of an anaphylactic reaction by students in our care
- assist in the management and care of a student if they were to suffer an anaphylactic reaction.

Aims:

- To provide, as far as is practicable, a safe environment for children with severe allergies and anaphylaxis.
- To educate staff, students and parents on the seriousness of anaphylaxis.
- To provide procedures which enable staff to:
 - identify children with known allergies, including severe allergies
 - understand their symptoms and triggers
 - implement prevention strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens
 - implement a management plan in the event of a severe allergic reaction
 - administer appropriate medications.

Implementation:

Anaphylaxis Management Plans

- All children with anaphylaxis attending St. Patrick's Primary School shall have an Anaphylaxis Management Plan lodged with the school.

- The Anaphylaxis Management Plan will comply with the requirements of section 4.1 of Anaphylaxis Guidelines published by the Dept. of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) and shall include an ASCIA (Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy) Action Plan provided by the child's parents.
- Children with Anaphylaxis will be identified and their ASCIA Action Plans made available to all staff.
- As awareness of students with anaphylaxis is vital, information regarding students' individual responses and treatment, including a photo, will be published on a colour coded backing and be displayed:
 - in the relevant child's classroom
 - in the sick bay
 - in the yard duty folders.
- Anaphylaxis Management Plans must be developed in consultation with the child's parents and reviewed annually, if the condition changes, or after the event of an allergic reaction occurring.
- ASCIA Action Plans must be provided by parents, developed with the advice of each child's medical practitioner. A doctor's authority to administer an EpiPen will accompany the provision of an EpiPen.

Medication

- Parents/Guardians will be responsible for ensuring that their children have an adequate supply of appropriate medication available at school.
- Parents of children with anaphylaxis will ensure that medication held at the school will be replaced before the expiry date. The Office Manager will also check EpiPens to ensure they are not out of date.
- The school will purchase one generic EpiPen and thermal bag pack for backup use. This will mean that a second EpiPen is available in the event of an ambulance delay.
- The school will be responsible for checking the expiry date of the school's generic EpiPen.
- Medication for each child will accompany them on excursions and camps. All parent helpers who attend excursions will be made aware of the children with anaphylaxis.

Class events

- The teacher and parent of a child with anaphylaxis will communicate whenever the class is planning to cook or have special food days.
- In the event of a birthday or special occasion treats, the teacher will discuss alternative arrangements with parents for the student with anaphylaxis, for example their own 'treat jar'.

Training

All staff will receive annual training in the treatment and management of anaphylactic students including the correct administration of the EpiPen.

Communication

- On enrolment, and annually thereafter, all parents will be required to provide a medical declaration advising the school of any known allergies to their child and, if applicable, to provide an emergency management plan (ASCIA Action Plan).
- Parents are responsible for updating the school should their child's medical condition change.
- Teachers will discuss anaphylaxis in class, and trial procedures for responding to an anaphylactic reaction. Discussion will include what type of foods may include an allergen, the importance of good hygiene (hand washing), no sharing of food and no tolerance for teasing.
- Children who do not suffer from allergies should be educated to understand medical issues affecting others and to act in a responsible manner.
- The school community will be informed about allergens via:
 - Quarterly reminders in the newsletter
 - Letter home, at the beginning of the year, with information about what anaphylaxis is and how families can do their bit to keep other children safe
 - Letter to new families prior to school commencement for each school year
 - Regular discussions in Assembly

This policy will be available on the school website. This policy is a risk mitigation plan and does not suggest that the school is nut free. Children with allergies need to be educated to always maintain vigilance about their environment.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed in 2019.