

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY 5C.4

Rationale:

- Anaphylaxis is an acute allergic reaction to certain food items and insect stings. The condition develops in approximately 1 - 2% of the population. The most common allergens are nuts, eggs, cow's milk and bee or other insect stings, and some medications. It can be life threatening and research indicates it is becoming more prevalent.

Aims:

- To provide a safe and healthy school environment that takes into consideration the needs of all students, including those who may suffer from anaphylaxis.

Implementation:

- Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening reaction to various foods or insect stings.
- 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.
- Anaphylaxis is best prevented by knowing and avoiding the allergens.
- Our school will manage anaphylaxis by:-
 - Providing training for the First Aid Officers so that they can administer competency assessments on anaphylaxis with the staff
 - providing online training every year for all staff on anaphylaxis management and briefings/refreshers twice yearly on anaphylaxis including the administering of an adrenaline auto-injector such as an EpiPen or an Anapen. Any person who has completed course 22099VIC in anaphylaxis management in the last three years (delivered by St John Ambulance Victoria since 2009) can lead the briefing.
 - contact parents/carers annually of each student diagnosed as at risk, to develop an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan, which includes an ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis, completed and signed by a medical practitioner.
 - ensure EpiPen or Anapen are easily accessible in a central secure spot in the first aid room.
 - Ensure appropriate first aid resources accompany every allergic student when outside of school grounds.
 - purchase of a spare or 'backup' adrenaline auto-injection device(s) as part of school first aid kit(s) for general use.

- complete the *Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklist* on an annual basis for each child at risk of anaphylaxis.
- informing the community about anaphylaxis via the newsletter
- informing students about allergies, including anaphylaxis causes and first aid, as part of the Foundation – Year 6 curriculum.
- not allowing food sharing, and restricting food to that approved by parents
- keeping the lawns well mown, ensuring children always wear enclosed shoes, and not allowing drink cans at school.
- identifying susceptible students and knowing their allergens. Having this information including student photo on display in teachers' offices, first aid area and staffrooms.
- requiring parents to provide an ASCIA emergency management plan developed by a health professional and an auto-injector if necessary, both of which will be maintained in the first aid room for reference as required. First aid staff will contact parents if the Use-By Date of the injector is close to expiration.
- Displaying all ASCIA Anaphylaxis Action Response Posters in the first aid room as appropriate.
- Maintaining open communication with parents.
- Encouraging parents to be aware of the allergen issues around peanuts, etc and encourage parents to not include these items in their child's food. That the canteen eliminate or reduce the likelihood of such allergens, and the school will reinforce the rules about not sharing food, and not eating foods that parents have not provided or consented to.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review cycle.

This policy was reviewed on 29th June 2021.