



## ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

### 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.
- To raise community awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy
- To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student.
- To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

### Implementation:

- Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening condition.
- 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.
- The school will ensure that an [individual management plan](#) is developed, in consultation with the student's parents, for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis.
- The [individual anaphylaxis management plan](#) will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls, and where possible before their first day of school.
- The plan will include an emergency procedures plan ([ASCIA Action Plan](#)), provided by the parent, that is signed by the medical practitioner, and sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction.
- The individual anaphylaxis management plan will also set out the following:
  - Information about the diagnosis, including the type of allergy or allergies the student has (based on a diagnosis from a medical practitioner).
  - Strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of school staff, for in-school and out of school settings including camps and excursions.
- The individual management plan will be prominently displayed in the school sickbay, in the relevant Community Chronicle and in the Staff Yard Duty Folders.
- The student's individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/ carers:
  - annually, and as applicable,
  - if the student's condition changes, or
  - immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school.
- It is the responsibility of the parent to:
  - provide the emergency procedures plan ([ASCIA Action Plan](#)).
  - inform the school if their child's medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).

- provide an up to date photo for the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) when the plan is provided to the school and when it is reviewed.
  - Provide an EpiPen, Anapen or similar as described in ASCIA Plan.
- The school will be responsible for ensuring that a communication plan is developed to provide information to all staff, students and parents about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy.
  - The communication plan will include information about what steps will be taken to respond to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in a classroom, in the school yard, on school excursions, on school camps and special event days.
  - Casual relief staff of students at risk of anaphylaxis will be informed of students at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction
  - The community will be informed of anaphylaxis and the need to minimise exposure to potential allergens by simple whole school rules such as not allowing food sharing
  - The school won't ban certain types of foods (eg. nuts) as it is not practicable to do so, and is not a strategy recommended by the Department of Education or the Royal Children's Hospital. However, the school will reinforce the rules about not sharing and not eating foods provided from home.
  - All staff will be anaphylaxis trained annually and will be briefed once each semester by a staff member who has up to date anaphylaxis management training on:
    - the school's anaphylaxis management policy
    - the causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis
    - the identities of students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis and where their medication is located
    - how to use an auto-adrenaline injecting device (EpiPen or AnaPen)
    - the school's first aid and emergency response procedures
  - At other times while the student is under the care or supervision of the school, including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days, the school must ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff present who have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.
  - 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 parents.

**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....

November 2016