



Anaphylaxis

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Rationale:

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge, awareness and planning. Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction when a person is exposed to an allergen. The most common allergens in school-aged children are eggs, peanuts, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, certain insect stings and medications.

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 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.

Our school will manage anaphylaxis by:

- ensuring staff are provided with professional development on the identification and response to anaphylaxis and the proper use of an EpiPen or Anapen.
- providing regular training and updates for school staff in recognising and responding appropriately to an anaphylactic reaction, including competently administering an EpiPen/Anapen.
- detailing prevention strategies for in-school and out-of-school settings
- identifying susceptible students and knowing their allergens
- informing the community about anaphylaxis/severe allergies via the newsletter
- discouraging food sharing, and restricting food to that approved by parents
- keeping the lawns well mown, ensuring children always wear shoes, and discouraging sweet drinks and nuts at school
- requiring parents to provide an Anaphylaxis Management Plan developed by a health professional and an EpiPen/Anapen, if necessary, both of which will be kept in the student's classroom for reference/use as required. Staff will be informed of the epipen's safe keeping place
- developing an Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklist to be completed on an annual basis. See: [Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklist \(doc 39.47 KB\)](#)
- purchasing a spare or 'backup' adrenaline auto-injection devices(s) as part of the school sick bay kit, for general use.

Foods (eg: nuts) will not be banned as it is not practicable to do so, and is not a strategy recommended by the DET or the Royal Children's Hospital. The school will, however, request that parents do not send those items to school if at all possible; that food providers eliminate or reduce the likelihood of such allergens, and the school will reinforce the rules about not sharing and not eating foods provided from home.

Evaluation:

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

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| Approved By | Hallam PS Council |
| Approval Date | 21 October 2014 |
| Date Reviewed | September 2014 |
| Responsible for Review | Assistant Principal & PET |
| Review Date | September 2017 |
| References | Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklist (doc 39.47 KB) |