

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

RATIONALE:

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common allergens in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication. The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of those students who have been diagnosed at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens), and prevention of exposure to these triggers.

Partnerships between schools and parents are important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from the student while at school. Adrenaline given through an Auto Injector (e.g. EpiPen®) to the muscle of the outer mid thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

AIMS:

- To implement the guidelines as mandated by the Department of Education and Training (DET) and comply with Ministerial Order 706 in the management of Anaphylaxis and the use of an Auto Injector (e.g. EpiPen®)
- To provide regular professional development to all staff that will facilitate the implementation of broad health education
- To raise staff, student and school community awareness about severe allergies and promote non discriminatory attitudes and practices that enable children with severe allergies to feel safe, supported and included in all activities
- In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, the school's First Aid and emergency response procedures and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan must be followed

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The Principal, Anaphylaxis Supervisors, First Aid coordinator and staff responsible for teaching students with severe allergies will be required to read and be familiar with the Victorian Guidelines for Managing Anaphylaxis in Government Schools (VGA), so they are aware of their roles and responsibilities
- An Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan (AMP) for the student will be developed in consultation with the student's parents/care givers and medical practitioner
- Anaphylaxis Management Plans will be reviewed annually, as required, and will be kept in a prominent place (Appendix 1 VGA)
- On enrolment, students will be asked to identify if they have allergies, and/or have Anaphylaxis
- A meeting will be held between the classroom teacher and the parents/care givers of the student with severe allergies, at the beginning of each year and prior to any school camps to discuss the Individual AMP, conduct a risk assessment and develop necessary prevention strategies (Appendix 1 and 2 VGA)
- Auto Injectors (e.g EpiPen®) will be provided by parents/care givers and these will be kept in a prominent position in the First Aid room
- Strategies to minimize the risk of exposure to allergens, while the student is under the care or supervision of school staff, in and out of school settings, including camps and excursions, will be put into place
- The Annual Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklist will be completed by the First Aid Coordinator in consultation with the Principal
- The school will purchase backup Auto Injectors (e.g EpiPen®) for general use. These will be kept in First Aid and in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen building
- Two School Anaphylaxis Supervisors will be appointed and trained as verifiers as per DET directive and Ministerial Order 706. This training is required every 3 years and each school MUST have at least two trained verifiers

- School Anaphylaxis Supervisors will complete ASCIA Anaphylaxis e-training every 2 years. They will follow the Anaphylaxis Management School Training Checklist to manage all anaphylaxis staff training
- All staff must hold current certification in the management of Anaphylaxis by completing ASCIA Anaphylaxis e-training for Victorian Schools every 2 years. Within 30 days of completing e-training staff must demonstrate correct use of adrenaline Auto Injector (e.g. EpiPen®) to one of the two school anaphylaxis supervisors. This is required to be updated every 2 years and copies of certificates will be kept by the Principal
- Twice yearly briefings MUST be provided for all Findon Primary School staff, by the Anaphylaxis School Supervisors. The briefings are to be conducted using the DET Anaphylaxis Management Briefing Presentation. This presentation is to be specific to the current students' needs and relate directly to the needs of Findon Primary in recognising and responding appropriately to an anaphylactic reaction including correct use of administration of an Auto Injector (e.g. EpiPen®). Records will be kept of staff attending training. Ideally these briefings should be held at the start of each new semester
- The Anaphylaxis School Supervisors are responsible for ensuring the student's Auto Injector (e.g. EpiPen®) and staff trained to administer the Auto Injector accompanies the student during excursions
- Communication between Findon Primary School and parents of students with severe allergies will be strongly promoted
- At the beginning of each year, all staff will be advised of those students at risk of Anaphylaxis and their allergens. Teams will be encouraged to run through a short, educational information session with all students that will cover anaphylaxis, the signs and symptoms and what to do if they see their peer having a reaction. The importance of not sharing food will be highlighted
- Students with Anaphylaxis will have their name, class, photo and allergens on the medical alerts poster which is displayed in the First Aid room, yard duty bags, staff room, class rooms and other prominent places around the school. This is updated annually and as required
- The First Aid coordinator is responsible for informing parents when the Auto Injector needs replacing. It is the responsibility of the parents/care givers to replace the Auto Injector (e.g. EpiPen®)
- The school community will be kept informed of any new developments via the weekly newsletter. Staff will be kept informed via email and at weekly briefing

EVALUATION:

This policy shall be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle

REFERENCES:

Ministerial Order 706, Victorian Guidelines for Managing Anaphylaxis in Government Schools (VGA)
 Anaphylaxis Management Plan (Appendix 1)
 Risk Assessment (Appendix 1 and 2)
 Annual Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklist
 Anaphylaxis Management School Training Checklist
 Anaphylaxis Management School Supervisors' Observation Checklist