

ANAPHYLAXIS

NARANGA SCHOOL POLICY

BACKGROUND

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 EpiPen® autoinjector to the muscle of the outer mid -thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

PURPOSE

- To provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the student's schooling.
- To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy in the school community
- To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, and developing risk minimisation 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.

INDIVIDUAL ANAPHYLAXIS MANGEMENT PLANS

The principal 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 plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls.

The individual anaphylaxis management plan will 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 name of the person/s responsible for implementing the strategies.
- Information on where the student's medication will be stored.
- The student's emergency contact details.

An emergency procedures plan (referred to as the ASCIA Action Plan), provided by the parent:

- sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction;
- is signed by a medical practitioner who was treating the child on the date the practitioner signs the emergency procedures plan; and
- includes an up-to-date photograph of the student.

The student's individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/ carers annually, or when the student's condition changes, or immediately after the student has an anaphylactic reaction at school.

It is the responsibility of the parent to:

- provide the school with an EpiPen® that is in date and replaced when out of date.
- provide the school with 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 of their child for the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) when the plan is provided to the school and when it is reviewed.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

The principal 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. Volunteers and casual relief staff will be informed of which students are at risk of anaphylaxis and advised of their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

All staff 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
- the school's first aid and emergency response procedures

STAFF TRAINING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

All staff complete an online e-training course and their competency in using an EpiPen® is assessed by the school Anaphylaxis Supervisors.

The principal will appoint two school Anaphylaxis supervisors to be trained by the Asthma Foundation in the correct use of an EpiPen® as per Ministerial Order 706 requirements.

REVIEW

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

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

May 2016