

# Anaphylaxis Policy

Monmia Primary School



This policy was last ratified by School Council on: 17th March, 2010

School Council President: Chantelle Polacsek

## Rationale

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common allergens 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/persons who have been diagnosed at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens), and prevention of exposure to these triggers (words denoting students will include all students, teachers and parent helpers). Partnerships between schools and families are important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from the student while at school. Adrenaline given through an EpiPen® auto injector to the muscle of the outer mid thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

## Aim

The school community aims to:

- Provide a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the schooling.
- Raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy.
- Engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student.
- 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

The school will manage anaphylaxis by following Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) Guidelines and by implementing these actions:

- Ensure that student diagnosed at being of risk of anaphylaxis, have an individual management plan developed in consultation with the student's family. The individual anaphylaxis management plan will include:
  - 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.
  - Information on where the student's medication will be stored.
  - The student's emergency contact details.
- An emergency procedures plan as provided by Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy Inc. Action Plan (ASCIA), completed by the parent/carer, that:
  - 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.
  - Includes an up to date photograph of the student.

- Review the student's individual management plan, in consultation with the student's family:
  - Twice a year at the beginning of Terms 1 & 3.
  - If the student's condition changes or
  - Immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school.
- Inform families of their responsibility to:
  - Provide the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).
  - Notify 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
- Develop a communication plan 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.
- Inform volunteers and casual relief staff of students at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in their care by the office staff.
- Brief all staff 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 EpiPen injecting device.
  - The school's first aid and emergency response procedures.
- Provide all staff with training on anaphylaxis management every three years.
- Ensure all staff members are familiar with the roles and responsibilities as defined in the DEECD Guidelines (APPENDIX 1) and the Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklists (APPENDIX 2).
- Supply generic backup EpiPens to be stored in First Aid room.
- Implement an anaphylaxis emergency drill twice a year.
- Display photos of individual students diagnosed with anaphylaxis and their current management plans in the staff room, canteen, Sick Bay, their classroom, in all teachers' yard duty bumbags and Curriculum Support rooms.
- Information sharing in all classrooms using the resources recommended by ASCIA to promote an awareness of the condition and its management strategies.
- Inform the school community that there is not a ban on certain types of foods (eg Nuts) as it is not practicable to do so and is not a strategy recommended by DEECD or the Royal Children's Hospital.
- However, the school will request families do not send those items to the school if at all possible and that the canteen will eliminate and reduce the likelihood of such allergens.
- On Multicultural Lunch Day the parents of anaphylactic students will be required to attend and assist with the supervision of their child.

#### References & Support Documents

- [DEECD School Policy and Advisory Guide](#)
- [DEECD A-Z Index - Anaphylaxis](#)
- [DEECD A-Z Index - Responding to Anaphylaxis](#)

#### Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually or as required depending on students' needs.