

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 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 of anaphylaxis.

Purpose:

The purpose of the anaphylaxis policy is to minimise the risk of an anaphylactic reaction occurring while the child is in the school and to ensure that staff members respond appropriately to an anaphylactic reaction by initiating appropriate treatment, including competently administering an EpiPen® and other devices as they become available. Mount Macedon Primary School is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the student's schooling.

Guidelines:

- 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
- Raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy in the school community
- 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:

School

- Mount Macedon Primary School will keep an up to date register of students at risk of anaphylaxis including the expiry date of medication provided
- All staff are to be informed of students with allergies and their management plan at the beginning of each school year and then updated as needed

- Regular training and updates for school staff in recognising and responding appropriately to an anaphylactic reaction, including competently administering an EpiPen®
- The Principal is to provide information to all staff, including office staff (and volunteers where appropriate) so that they are aware of students who are at risk of anaphylaxis, the student's allergies, the school's management strategies and first aid procedures
- Ensure that there are procedures in place for informing casual relief teachers of students at risk of anaphylaxis and the steps required for prevention and emergency response
- 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 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
- Ensure that each student's Anaphylaxis Management Plan is reviewed annually in consultation with parents/ carers or if the student's circumstances change or immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school

Classroom

- Teachers will actively encourage students to only consume food provided by the student's family
- Students will be given age appropriate education regarding anaphylaxis, its treatment and prevention
- When school camps and excursions are to be held the host staff are to be made aware that some students may have an anaphylactic reaction with certain allergens
- Raise student awareness about severe allergies and the importance of their role in fostering school environment that is safe and supportive to their peers. This can be done by having regular discussions with students about the importance of washing hands, eating their own food and not sharing food.

Parents

- 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 of 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 (ASCIA Action Plan) provided by the parent that:

1. Sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction
 2. Is signed by a medical practitioner who was treating the child on the date the practitioner signs the emergency procedures plan
 3. Includes an up to date photograph of the student
- Ensure that the student's Anaphylaxis Management Plan is reviewed annually in conjunction with the school, if the student's circumstances change or immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school
 - It is the responsibility of the parent/ carer 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 up to date EpiPen® or suitable device for use at the school or school related events

Note: The red and blue 'ASCIA Action Plan' is the most common form of emergency procedures plan that is provided by medical practitioners to parents when a child is diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis. This form can be downloaded from

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/health/anaphylaxis.htm>

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed with staff, student, parent and community input as part of the school's three year review cycle.