



Karingal Heights Primary School

ANAPHALAXIS POLICY

RATIONALE:

Karingal Heights Primary School will fully comply with Ministerial Order 706 and the associated Guidelines published and amended by the Department.

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 the school.

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

AIMS:

- 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, developing risk minimisation strategies 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.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Staff Training And Emergency Response

- Two staff members are to be nominated to undertake face to face training to skill them in providing competency checks to assess their colleagues' ability to use an auto injector and become School Anaphylaxis Supervisors. This training is valid for 3 years.
- All staff employed at Karingal Heights Primary School must undertake the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCI) e-training course and have their competency in using an auto injector tested in person within 30 days of completing the course. This training can be accessed via the following: [Anaphylaxis e-training](#) This training is valid for 2 years.
- All schools with a child at risk of an anaphylactic reaction are required to undertake twice yearly briefings on anaphylaxis management.
- At times while the student is under the care or supervision of the school, including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days, the principal must ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff and/or volunteers present who have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.
- The school's first aid procedures and students emergency procedures plan (ASCI Action Plan) will be followed in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

Individual Anaphylaxis management Plans

The principal will ensure that an Individual Anaphylaxis 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.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on May 4, 2017

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.

The Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will set out the following:

- information about the student's medical condition that relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, including the type of allergy/allergies the student has and the signs or symptoms the student might exhibit in the event of an allergic reaction (based on a written diagnosis from a medical practitioner)
- strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of school staff, for in-school and out-of-school settings including in the school yard, at camps and excursions, or at special events conducted, organised or attended by the school
- the name of the person(s) responsible for implementing the risk minimisation strategies which have been identified in the Plan
- information on where the student's medication will be stored
- the student's emergency contact details
- an up-to-date ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis completed by the student's medical practitioner.

School staff will implement and monitor the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan as required.

The student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents in all of the following circumstances:

- annually
- if the student's medical condition, insofar as it relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, changes
- as soon as practicable after the student has an anaphylactic reaction at school
- when the student is to participate in an off-site activity, such as camps and excursions, or at special events conducted, organised or attended by the school (eg. class parties, elective subjects and work experience, cultural days, fetes, concerts, events at other schools, competitions or incursions).

it is the responsibility of the parents to:

- obtain the ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis from the student's medical practitioner and provide a copy to the school as soon as practicable
- immediately inform the school in writing if there is a change in their child's medical condition, insofar as it relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, and if relevant obtain an updated ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis
- provide an up to date photo of the student for the ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis when that Plan is provided to the school and each time it is reviewed
- provide the school with an adrenaline autoinjector that is current (ie the device has not expired) for their child
- participate in annual reviews of their child's Plan.

Risk Minimisation strategies

If a child with anaphylaxis is enrolled at Karingal Heights Primary School risk minimisation strategies will be put in place:

- during classroom activities (including class rotations, specialist and elective classes)
- between classes and other breaks
- in canteens
- during recess and lunchtimes
- before and after school
- camps and excursions, or at special events conducted, organised or attended by the school (eg. class parties, elective subjects and work experience, cultural days, fetes, concerts; events at other schools, competitions or incursions).

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School planning and emergency response

Karingal Heights Primary School will keep on record:

- a complete and up to date list of students identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis
- details of Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans and ASCIA Action Plans for Anaphylaxis and where these are located within the school and during school excursions, school camps and special events conducted, organised or attended by the school
- an outline of the storage and accessibility of adrenaline autoinjectors, including those for general use

Adrenaline auto injectors for general use

The principal will purchase adrenaline auto injector(s) for general use (purchased by the school) and as a back up to those supplied by parents.

The principal will also need to determine the number of additional adrenaline autoinjector(s) required to be purchased by the school. In doing so, the principal should take into account the following relevant considerations:

- the number of students enrolled at the school who have been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis
- the accessibility of adrenaline autoinjectors that have been provided by parents of students who have been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis
- the availability and sufficient supply of adrenaline autoinjectors for general use in specified locations at the school including in the school yard, and at excursions, camps and special events conducted, organised or attended by the school
- the adrenaline autoinjectors for general use have a limited life, and will usually expire within 12-18 months, and will need to be replaced at the school's expense either at the time of use or expiry, whichever is first
- the expiry date of adrenaline autoinjectors should be checked regularly to ensure they are ready for use.

Communication Plan

- 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 of students at risk of anaphylaxis will be informed of students at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in their care by the assistant principal or student wellbeing officer.
- The community will be informed of anaphylaxis and the need to minimise exposure to potential allergens by simple whole school rules such as not allowing food sharing, and restricting food to that approved by parents keeping the lawns well mown, ensuring children always wear shoes, and not allowing drink cans at school.
- The school won't ban certain types of foods (eg: nuts) as it is not practicable to do so, and is not a strategy recommended by the Department of Education or the Royal Children's Hospital. However, the school will request that parents do not send those items to school if at all possible; that the canteen 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.

Annual risk management checklist

- The principal will complete an annual Risk Management Checklist as published by the Department of Education and Training to monitor compliance with their obligations. The annual checklist is designed to step schools through each area of their responsibilities in relation to the management of anaphylaxis in schools.

EVALUATION:

This policy will be evaluated in the three year cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on May 4, 2017

Templates:

- [Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklist link](#)
- [Anaphylaxis Management Plan Template link](#)

References :

- [DET Anaphylaxis management in schools](#)