

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY



Rationale:

- Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening condition.
- Anaphylaxis is an acute allergic reaction to certain food items and insect stings. The condition develops in approximately 1-2% of the population. The most common allergens are nuts, eggs, cow's milk and bee or other insect stings, and some medications.
- Signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis include hives/rash, tingling in or around the mouth, abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhoea, facial swelling, cough or wheeze, difficulty breathing or swallowing, loss of consciousness or collapse, or cessation of breathing.
- Knowing and avoiding the allergens best prevents anaphylaxis.

Aims:

- To provide a safe and healthy school environment that takes into consideration the needs of all students, including those who may suffer from anaphylaxis.

Implementation:

- Emerson School will manage anaphylaxis by:-
 - identifying susceptible students and knowing their allergens
 - informing the community about anaphylaxis via the newsletter
 - requiring parents to provide the school with student's EpiPen and a current ASCIA EpiPen Management Plan (www.allergy.org.au) dated and signed off by a health professional.
 - requiring parent to notify school and provide an updated Anaphylaxis management plan annually (or when pen expires) and/or if medical condition changes.
 - registering the individual student and school epipens with EpiClub.
 - individual student emergency management plan including current photograph kept in student file, classroom, sick bay with an electronic version accessible to staff whilst filed in accordance with privacy guidelines.
 - Student's personal EpiPen to be taken on all school excursions/camps etc.
 - staff to have access to relevant student details via Compass portal.
 - Photograph and pertinent details displayed in the sick bay and staff room for reference as required.
 - **if an EpiPen is necessary, this will be maintained in student classroom under supervision of class teacher.**
 - **SPARE epipens are located in Administration office on main campus & Administration and Coordinators offices on Middle Campus.**
 - Spare EpiPens are part of the emergency evacuation kit/s
 - ensuring staff are provided with regular professional development that incorporates theoretical and practical components on the identification and response to anaphylaxis and the proper use of an EpiPen in line with current practice and Department policy.
 - provide follow up PD and/or briefing in response to specific anaphylaxis incident.
 - ensuring that the class CRT(Casual Relief Teacher) folder incorporates relevant student information of the class cohort.
 - 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.
 - an annual risk management checklist will be completed in line with the Emerson School emergency management plan.

- The school will not ban certain types of foods (e.g. 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 Home Economics classes 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.

Evaluation:

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

Emerson School Council last ratified this policy in

July 2016