



Anaphylaxis Management

POLICY

RATIONALE

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressing allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common allergies in school age children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (eg: cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication.

The key to the 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 school and parents are important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from students while at school.

Adrenaline given through an EpiPen® autoinjector to the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the most effective 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 ensure that all parents, carers, staff and students have adequate knowledge about the processes and procedures that Ararat Primary School has in place to support students diagnosed at risk of suffering from anaphylaxis.

To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies for students.

To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylaxis reaction.

INDIVIDUAL ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT PLANS:

The principal will ensure that an individual management plan is developed, in consultation with the student's parents/carers, for any student who is diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis.

The individual anaphylaxis management plan will be in place as soon as is practicable after the student enrolls, and where possible prior to the first day of school.

The individual anaphylaxis management plan will set out the following:

- Information about the diagnosis, including the type of allergy/allergies the student has (based on information 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 the implementing of strategies
- Information on where a student's medication will be stored
- The student's emergency contact details
- An emergency procedure plan (ASCIA Action Plan), provided by the parents/carers, that:
 - Sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction
 - Is signed by a medical practitioner
 - Includes an up-to-date photo of the student

The student's individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/carers:

- Annually, and as applicable
- If the student's condition changes
- Immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school

It is the parents/carers responsibility to:

- Provide the emergency procedure plan (ASCIA Action Plan)
- Inform the school if their child's medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated emergency procedure plan (ASCIA Action Plan)
- Provide an up-to-date photo for the emergency procedure plan (ASCIA Action Plan) when the plan is provided to the school or 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 schools 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 the classroom, school yard, on school excursions, on school camps and special event days.

Volunteers and casual relief staff who attend classes/activities or events with students at risk of anaphylaxis will be informed of students at risk of anaphylaxis. They will be made aware of their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in their care by the principal or first aid coordinator

All staff will be briefed once a semester by the principal or first aid coordinator who has up-to-date Anaphylaxis management training on:

- The school's anaphylaxis management policy
- The cause symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis
- The identities of students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis and where their medication is located
- How to use the auto adrenaline injector device
- The school's first aid and emergency response procedures

RISK MINIMISATION STRATEGIES

To reduce the risk of a student suffering from an anaphylactic reaction at Ararat Primary School, we have put in place the following strategies:

- *staff are trained in the administration of an autoinjector and anaphylaxis;*
- *staff will employ measures to ensure that students are not unduly exposed to known allergens*
- *a general use EpiPen will be stored at the school office*
- *Staff will ensure they take any autoinjectors for students who suffer from anaphylaxis when leaving for excursions*
- *Anaphylaxis Management Plans are available in the General Office and in the First Aid Room*

STAFF TRAINING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Teachers and other school staff who conduct classes which a student at risk of anaphylaxis attends, or give instruction to students at risk of anaphylaxis, must have up-to-date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.

All staff will be given the opportunity to participate in an anaphylaxis management training course and annual training will be offered to all staff.

The school's first aid procedures and student emergency procedure plan (ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed in response to an anaphylactic reaction.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in

November 2020