



HIGHVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Anaphylaxis Policy

Ratified by School Council: September 2012

Review date: September 2015

Rationale:

This policy has been updated in response to the recently updated and revised DEECD Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Victorian Government Schools. S273-2012

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 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:

Parents will:

- Provide a copy of the student's ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis completed in consultation with a medical practitioner which :
 - sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction;
 - is signed and dated by the child's medical practitioner; and
 - includes an up to date photograph of the student.
- This should be established for all students who are at risk of anaphylaxis on enrolment or on immediate diagnosis of this condition.
- Provide an alternative safe treat from home when the child is unable to have the food provided on special occasions or birthday celebrations.
- Provide a new plan at the beginning of each school year and sign all medication in.
- Notify the School of any changes to the management plan and provide an updated ASCIA plan if and when this occurs.
- Provide in writing to the school permission to administer prescribed medications with clear instructions.
- Provide an Epi-pen ® that is current, in original packaging and clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Be responsible for regularly checking the expiry date of the Epi-pen ®.
- Communicate all relevant information and concerns to staff as the need arises (eg: if allergy symptoms were present the previous night.)

- Be responsible for educating their child with allergies to monitor themselves and report any incident of allergic reactions to any staff member.

School will:

- Seek information from the parent about allergies as part of health information upon enrolment, or as a part of regular health updates.
- Provide first aid training to staff in anaphylaxis management which complies with the requirements of section 8(d) of Ministerial Order 90.
- Create awareness amongst the Highvale School community about anaphylaxis through an Anaphylaxis Communication Plan. See Appendix 1.
- Monitor on an ongoing basis potential exposures to allergens, within the school premises, during school and classroom activities, after and before care activities and other activities conducted out of school premises.

Staff will:

- Display copies of students photographs with their Emergency Management plan in prominent places such as: staff room, first aid room, and in classroom rolls.
- Participate in required training.
- Store Epi-pen ® at room temperature in highly visible, easily accessible position out of the reach of young children, in the sick-bay room near the first-aid kit.
- Seek approval of parent / guardian before the child is able to participate in any cooking or special activities involving food.
- Create awareness among their students regarding anaphylaxis through the Anaphylaxis Communication Plan.
- Seek permission from parents of a child with allergies, to inform parents of other class members of the potential risk.
- Provide advice to parents as and when required, about minimising the risk of allergies induced by food, insect stings or antibiotics etc.
- Avoid food rewards in the school.
- Discourage food sharing or swapping among students.

Students will:

- Not swap or share food or its containers and other utensils with other students.
- Not encourage other students to have food to which they are allergic.
- Follow the school policy on anaphylaxis and such instructions from school staff.
- Clean their hands thoroughly immediately before and after eating or cooking activities.
- Immediately inform school staff if they feel sick or get any form of rashes.
- Adhere to the instructions provided on their ASCIA plan.
- Try to avoid going into any area where there are bees or other insects. In such case they should notify any staff of the school.

Responsibility and Evaluation: