ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

Policy No. 3.8

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1.0 Rationale
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.
2.0 Aims:

2.1 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.

2.2 To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school’s anaphylaxis management policy in the school community.

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

2.4 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.

3.0 Implementation:

3.1 Anaphylaxis Management Plans

a. The school nurse will ensure that a 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.

b. Wales Street Primary School has utilized the Anaphylaxis Management Plan recommended by DEECD. See Appendix A.

c. The Original Management Plan is located in the First Aid room.

d. Copies are located in the students’ classroom, in the students’ teachers CRT Folder, and in Specialist Areas.

e. The Anaphylaxis Management plan will set out the following:

   - Information about the diagnosis, including the type of allergy or allergies the student exhibits. (Based on a diagnosis 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 implementing the strategies.
   - Information on where the student’s medication will be stored.
   - The student’s emergency contact details.

f. The student’s Anaphylaxis management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student’s parents/carers:

   - annually, and as applicable,
   - if the student’s condition changes, or
   - immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school.

The Anaphylaxis Management Plan has an additional risk management page that parents can add to if they wish.
3.2 Anaphylaxis Action Plan (ASCIA)

a. The Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Action Plan can be reviewed in Appendix B.
b. The Anaphylaxis Action Plan, developed by the students’ medical practitioner, will be placed in areas as listed, as soon as practicable after the student enrolls and where possible before their first day of school:
   - Original in Staff Room
   - In staff room and office and first Aid room
   - In student’s class room
   - In canteen and food handling areas
   - In Out of School Hours Care room
   - Electronic copy in Cases network under EWC/Health/Allergy Plans
c. The ASCIA Action Plan supplied by the students’ parents and medical practitioner should set out the following:
   - The emergency procedure to follow in the event of an allergic reaction
   - The students’ allergy type or types
   - The students contact details.
   - Use of an antihistamine (if applicable)
   - Signed by a Medical Practitioner
   - An up to date photo of the student
d. It is the responsibility of the parent to:
   - alert the school on enrolment, if their child has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis
   - provide the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan). Update this plan annually.
   - 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.
e. All Red Epipen bags are stored in the First Aid Room, easily accessible on a hook on the wall. These contain the students Epipen, ASCIA plan and antihistamine (if applicable). Each bag is clearly labelled with students, name and photo I.D.

3.3 Communication Strategies

a. At the beginning of the school year, the school nurse will update staff on which children have anaphylaxis plans.
b. The particular classes that have anaphylactic students will have letters sent home to all parents alerting them to the nature of anaphylaxis and the need for caution in regards the use of allergens in the school/classroom.
c. All staff will be briefed yearly by the School Nurse on:
   - Anaphylaxis management policy
   - Causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis
   - Identities of students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis and where their medication is located
   - How to use an auto adrenaline injecting device
   - First aid and emergency response procedures
d. All staff will attend a government approved lecture on Anaphylaxis-valid for 3 years.
e. All staff will have a further brief during staff meetings to reassess Epipen practice and technique.
f. The Anaphylaxis DVD may be used for this purpose at staff briefings.
g. Assistant Principal will inform Volunteers and casual relief staff of students at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction. Student photos and plans will be placed in all CRT folders.
h. The Anaphylaxis Management procedure will include information about what steps will be taken to respond to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in a classroom, on yard duty, on school excursions, on school camps and in specialist classes.(See Appendix C.)

EXTRA EPIPENS ARE LOCATED IN THE YARD DUTY BAG IN THE OFFICE WAITING ROOM AND IN THE ITALIAN ROOM

3.4 Staff Training and Emergency Response.

a. Teachers and other school staff who conduct classes with students at risk with Anaphylaxis must have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.
b. At other times, while the student is under the care or supervision of the school, including yard duty, excursions, camps and special event days, the principal must ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff present who have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.
c. Training and updating will be provided to all staff as soon as practicable at the beginning and middle of the school year. (See 3.3 part c and d.)
d. The school’s first aid procedures and students emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed in response to an anaphylactic reaction.