DEFINITION of Anaphylaxis:

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, cow's milk, dairy products, 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 those 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.

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 raise community awareness about allergies and Anaphylaxis and our Anaphylaxis Management Policy.
- To engage with parents/caregivers of students at risk of Anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student.
- To ensure each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, Anaphylaxis and the school’s Anaphylaxis Management policy and procedures in responding to an Anaphylactic reaction.

INDIVIDUAL ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT PLANS


The principal and the Senior Staff member responsible for Student Welfare, will ensure that an individual management plan is developed, in consultation with the student’s parents and/or caregivers, for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of Anaphylaxis.

Note that a management plan takes into account an Anaphylaxis action plan, it does not replace it.

The individual Anaphylaxis management plan will be in place as soon as practicable after a student enrolls, and where possible before their first day of school.

The individual Anaphylaxis management plan will set out the following:
• Information about the diagnosis, including any allergy or allergies the student has (based on medical practitioner’s diagnosis)
• Strategies to minimise risk of exposure to allergens while the student is under care or supervision of school staff, either in school or out of school settings, including camps and excursions.
• The name of the person/s responsible for implementing the strategies.
• Information about where all medication is stored, including the expiry date of Epipens.
• The student’s emergency contact details.
• An emergency procedures plan (i.e ASCIA Action Plan – see http://www.allergy.org.au/content/view/10/3/ to download a copy) provided by the parents/ caregivers that:

1. sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction
2. must be signed by a medical practitioner who was treating the child on the day the practitioner signs the action plan/ emergency procedures plan
3. includes an up to date photograph provided by the parents/ caregivers

The student’s individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student’s parents/ caregivers:
• annually
• if the student’s condition changes, or
• immediately after a student has had an Anaphylactic reaction

It is the responsibility of the parents/ caregivers to:
• provide the emergency procedures plan annually (i.e ASCIA Action Plan)
• inform the school if their child’s medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated emergency procedures plan (i.e ASCIA Action Plan)
• provide an up to date photo for the procedures plan (i.e ASCIA Action Plan) when the plan is first provided to the school and when it is reviewed
• ensure medication expiry dates are recorded and that all medication is replaced before expiry
• provide a signed agreement that gives the school permission to post the action plan, including photos, in appropriate places around the school, for eg. CRT folders, Sharepoint (online – password protected), first aid room & Staffroom
• assist school staff in planning and preparing for the student attending camp and any excursions, special days and celebrations, including class parties
• make Epipens and Action and Management plans available to Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) staff when students attend.

Parents may wish to provide an additional Epipen to be near the student’s classroom, in consultation with the classroom teacher. A copy of both Action and Management plans should also be placed with any additional Epipen.
All Anaphylaxis management plans, as well as Action plans and Anaphylaxis register will be stored in the first Aid room in a folder marked Anaphylaxis Management. The register will ensure that all plans and medication are up to date. An additional copy of both the Action and Management plans will be kept with the student’s medication.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

The principal and the Senior Staff member responsible for Student Welfare will be responsible for ensuring that a communication plan (see page 4 – Procedures in the event of an Anaphylaxis reaction) is developed to provide information to all staff, students and parents about Anaphylaxis and the school’s Anaphylaxis management policy. The communication plan will include the following steps taken to respond to an Anaphylactic reaction in the school yard, in the classroom, on camps, on excursions and any special event days. Parents and staff should meet prior to any camp to discuss management and action plans.

Casual Relief Teachers (CRT’s) of students at risk of Anaphylaxis will be informed of students at risk of Anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an Anaphylactic reaction. All CRT’s are given a class booklet upon arriving at school which is clearly labelled ‘Student with Allergies in this class – please read before starting the day.’ A photo a brief description, including allergens is included.

A sign will be placed outside each classroom that has a student at risk of Anaphylaxis, alerting the community that a child in this class has allergies with specific allergens listed.

All staff will be briefed annually by a staff member who has up to date Anaphylaxis management training on:

- the school’s Anaphylaxis management policy
- the causes, symptoms and treatment of Anaphylaxis
- the identities of students diagnosed at risk of Anaphylaxis and where their medication is located
- how to use an autoadrenaline (Epipen) injecting advice, including practising with the trainer pen
- the school’s first aid and emergency response procedures

Note: A DVD is included in the Ministerial Order 90 Pack delivered to schools in June 2008.

Community awareness of Anaphylaxis and the management of it will be promoted by the Severe Allergies Support group. It is planned that this group will meet approximately once a semester.

STAFF TRAINING AND RESPONSE

Teachers and other school staff who conduct classes which students at risk of Anaphylaxis attend, or give instruction to students at risk of Anaphylaxis must have up to date training in an Anaphylaxis management training course.
At other times while the student is under the care or supervision of the school, including first aid duty, excursions, yard duty, camps etc, 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.

The principal will identify the school staff to be trained on a risk assessment. (Note: in many schools this will mean that the majority or all of the staff will need to be trained)

The school’s first aid procedures and student emergency procedures plan (i.e ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed in responding to an Anaphylactic reaction.

All student medication (Anaphylaxis for management) will be stored in a plastic container, clearly labelled in the first aid room. Ascot Vale PS has purchased one Epipen jr. in case of emergency.

Staff who conduct classes with students at risk of Anaphylaxis attend must be aware of student individual management plans, that may include actions such as:

- avoiding the use of food treats in class as they may contain hidden allergens
- avoiding students sharing food bought from home
- awareness of possible allergens, for eg. when cooking
- ensuring that tables and surfaces are wiped down regularly and that students wash their hands regularly after handling food
- raising student awareness about severe allergies and the importance of their role in fostering a school environment that is safe and supportive for everyone

OSHC staff must also be trained in the abovementioned areas annually. It is recommended that parents provide an additional Epipen to OSHC. If an Epipen is not provided, OSHC are to collect an Epipen from the school’s First Aid cupboard. Parents must inform OSHC if this is going to be the case. Parents also need to provide an up to date copy of both the Action and Management Plans to OSHC.

**EVALUATION:**
This policy will be reviewed in 3 years. June 2015.

**WEB REFERENCES**