

Anaphylaxis Policy

1. Rationale

Anaphylaxis is a severely, 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), cows milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medications.

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 triggers. Partnerships between schools and parents are important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from the student while they are at school.

Adrenaline given through an EpiPen autoinjector to the muscle of the outer mid thigh is the most effective first aid.

Any school that has enrolled a student or students at risk of anaphylaxis must by law have a School Anaphylaxis Management Policy in place.

2. Purpose

1. To provide, as far as practical, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of schooling.
2. To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy in the school community.
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.
4. 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.

3. Guidelines

1. The school will comply with Ministerial Order 706 and associated guidelines related to anaphylaxis management in schools as published and amended by the Department from time to time.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/anaphylaxischools.aspx#link71>

2. The Principal will ensure that an individual 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. This plan will form an addendum to ASCIA Action Plan (Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy).
3. The ASCIA Action Plan / Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls, and before their first day of school.
4. The individual anaphylaxis management plan will be set out the following:
 - information about the diagnosis, including the type of allergy or allergies the student has (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 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 or
 - immediately after a student has an anaphylaxis reaction at school.

5. It is the responsibility of the parent to:
 - provide the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan)
 - inform the school if their child's medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated ASCIA Action Plan / individual management plan
 - provide an up to date photo for the ASCIA Action Plan when the plan is provided to the school and when it is reviewed
 - replace their child's epi-pen when the 'use-by date' has expired.
6. 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 school's anaphylaxis management policy.
7. The Communication Plan will include information about what steps will be taken to respond to an anaphylaxis reaction by a student in a classroom, in the school yard, on school excursions, on school camps and special event days.
8. Volunteers and casual relief staff of students at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in their care by a staff member as identified in the Communication Plan.
9. All staff will be briefed once each semester by the Assistant Principal/or 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 auto adrenalin injecting device
 - the school's first aid and emergency response procedures.
10. All school staff will have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.
11. New staff will be trained as soon as practicable and briefed in management by a trained staff member. An Interim plan will be developed in consultation with the parents until such training is attended, ensuring the school's first aid procedures and student emergency procedures plan will be followed in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.
12. The school will complete an Annual Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklist.

4. Implementation

1. The Communication Plan will be reviewed each year and communicated to all staff each semester.
2. The ASCIA Action Plans / Individual Management Plans will be reviewed / updated with parents / carers at the commencement of each school year.
3. Parents will provide appropriate medication / EpiPens to ensure implementation of plan.
4. A designated staff member will ensure that documentation of plans are up to date.
5. The school will purchase a spare or 'backup' adrenaline auto-injection devices(s) as part of the school first aid equipment in the first aid room for general use.
6. A designated staff member will ensure that EpiPens and other medications are within expiry date at the beginning of each semester.
7. The Assistant Principal is responsible for communication of plans to staff, including SSO, Canteen and OSHP staff.
8. Information regarding the Management of Anaphylaxis and students at risk will be available in the Staff Folder on the server.

9. Medication and Plans will be kept in the First Aid Room, clearly labelled and accessible to staff.
10. Provide strategies to minimise risk of exposure to allergens while the student is under care/supervision of school staff, for all in-school and out of school settings such as excursions, camps and special event days.
11. Camberwell South Primary school is not a nut or allergen free school, however students are discouraged from sharing food and drinks.
12. If a class member has a nut allergy, parents of classmates will be asked not to send food or products containing nuts.
13. The policy will be reviewed by Leadership to reflect amendments made by DET.

5. Evaluation

A committee of staff and the Education Subcommittee will review the Anaphylaxis Policy on a cyclical basis according to the School Council Policy Review Schedule. The review will ensure that the school's programs and procedures are adequately reflecting Statewide curriculum developments and the changing needs of the Camberwell South community.

Ratified by:	Date	
Education Committee	16/9/15	
Staff	18.8.15	
School Council	28/10/15	Name: Will Collie Signature: 