



ILLAWARRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Illawarra Primary School Anaphylaxis and Allergy Policy

Background

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. However, it is a preventable and treatable event. Over recent years the number of pre-school and school-aged children with anaphylaxis has increased in Australia. At Illawarra Primary we have a number of students who have been identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis. We recognise the increased risk of anaphylaxis for students with asthma and that a student with no previous history can have an anaphylactic reaction.

Goal

The goal of this policy is to minimise the risk of anaphylaxis at our school but also to ensure appropriate action in the event of an anaphylactic reaction. It is designed to promote the safety and wellbeing of all members of our school community.

Implementation

The policy is in accord with The Department of Education Students' Medical and Health Care Requirements which can be found at:

<https://www.education.tas.gov.au/documentcentre/Documents/Specific-Health-Issues-Procedures.pdf>

It is also based on The Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) guidelines for schools which can be found at:

<http://www.allergy.org.au/health-professionals/anaphylaxis-resources/anaphylaxis-guidelines-for-schools-and-childrens-services>

School Responsibilities:

The school undertakes to implement the four steps in the prevention of food anaphylactic reactions in children at risk in schools, as identified by ASCIA as follows:

1. Seeking to obtain medical information about children at risk of anaphylaxis through initial enrolment and annual information update procedures.
2. Education of those responsible for the care of children concerning the risk of anaphylaxis through whole staff allergy/anaphylaxis training and maintaining Asthma and Anaphylaxis Active Certification.
3. Implementation of practical strategies to avoid exposure to known triggers as documented in each child's Anaphylaxis Management Plan which will be developed collaboratively with parents/carers and **updated annually**.

4. Age appropriate education of children with severe food allergies including implementing the management plan and reinforcing appropriate avoidance and hygiene. An important component of this step is also the education of other students in relation to anaphylaxis (resources are available to teachers at school).
5. Ensure that relief staff are aware of action plans for students.

Parent/Carer Responsibilities:

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students, Parents/Carers are required to:

1. Provide the school with all relevant **current** medical information on enrolment at the beginning of each school year and in the event of any changed circumstances.
2. Provide an updated ASCIA Action Plan, signed by the treating Medical Practitioner every twelve months. This is a legal document and must not be changed in any way by a parent.
3. Collaborate with school staff early each school year to develop/update the child's Anaphylaxis Management Plan, with input from the treating Medical Practitioner as required.
4. Provide the school with a **current** EpiPen (ie. within use by date) if the ASCIA plan or medical records state that the child is at risk of anaphylaxis.
5. Ensure that any medication provided to the school (eg. antihistamine) is **replaced** when it has expired.

Other important policy information:

Illawarra Primary School is **not** a NUT or OTHER FOOD FREE school. That is, whilst we practice risk minimisation strategies and promote allergy awareness we do not ban particular foods. We do seek parent support in not sending nut products to school, and where a student in a class has a severe allergy to another food, as confirmed by a doctor, we may also seek support from parents of children in that class in not sending that particular food to school. This is more likely to be requested in younger classes, where students do not have the same ability to self-manage their needs. This policy is consistent with ASCIA and the Department of Education guidelines.

Our school canteen's policy is that they will not add nuts to any of its menu items, but it cannot be guaranteed that base products purchased do not contain traces of nuts. The canteen endeavours to provide healthy and delicious food for all students, including those at risk of anaphylaxis. Please talk to Senior Staff if you have any questions or suggestions.

Where a student has an anaphylactic reaction their Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be followed. In the event that a student not previously identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis has an anaphylactic reaction at school, it is agreed that trained school staff will administer a school EpiPen and call an ambulance.

In the case of an emergency where a student has an anaphylactic reaction and the first EpiPen administered is not effective, a trained staff member will administer a second EpiPen from the school's pool. As a last resort, if another student's EpiPen is used, that student will be isolated for safety and the parents immediately contacted.

Evaluation

The School Association will review the guidelines and practices regularly to ensure compliance and optimum risk minimisation.