

Anaphylaxis Management Policy

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 and certain insect stings (particularly bee stings).

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of the student who has been diagnosed as at risk, awareness of allergens, and prevention of exposure to those allergens. Partnerships between schools and parents/guardians are important in helping the student avoid exposure.

Adrenaline given through an adrenaline autoinjector (such as an EpiPen[®]) into 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 awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy/guidelines in the school community.
- To engage with parents/guardians of each student at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimization strategies for the student.
- To ensure that staff have knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's guidelines and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

Anaphylaxis Care Plans

The Director will ensure that an Anaphylaxis Care Plan is developed in consultation with the student's parents/guardians, for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis.

The Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan will be in place before their first day of school.

The student's Anaphylaxis Care Plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/guardians:

- annually, and as applicable,
- if the student's condition changes,
- immediately after the student has an anaphylactic reaction.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to:

- inform the school immediately if their child's medical condition changes

Staff training and Emergency Response

Teachers and other school staff who have contact with the student at risk of anaphylaxis, will undertake training in anaphylaxis management including how to respond in an emergency.

At other times while the student is under the care or supervision of the school, including field trips the parent in conjunction with the teacher must ensure that there is a supervising adult present who has training and knows how to recognize, prevent and treat anaphylaxis.

Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan will be followed when responding to an anaphylactic reaction.