

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

PREAMBLE:

- Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapid progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common causes in young children are eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, cows milk, wheat, soy, fish and shellfish, bee or other insect stings and some medications. A reaction can develop within minutes of the exposure to the allergen.
- Up to five percent of children are at risk and whilst rare, deaths have occurred. Anaphylaxis must therefore be regarded as a medical emergency that requires a rapid response.

BELIEFS:

- It is important for all staff members to be aware of symptoms and triggers and the management of anaphylaxis in a school environment.
- Moonee Ponds West Primary School recognizes the importance of all staff undertaking training that includes measures to raise awareness of harm minimization of an anaphylactic reaction, recognition of the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and emergency treatment including the administration of an EpiPen.
- Staff and parents/carergivers need to be made aware that it is not possible to have a completely allergen-free environment. Staff should not have a false sense of security that an allergen has been eliminated from the environment. Instead, the school recognizes the need to adopt a range of procedures and risk minimization strategies to reduce the risk of a child having an anaphylactic reaction.

AIMS:

- To minimize the risk of exposure to an allergen and an anaphylactic reaction occurring while the child is in the care of the school.
- To ensure that all staff members are aware of the children at risk within the school.
- To ensure that all staff members respond appropriately to an anaphylactic reaction by initiating appropriate treatment, including competently administering an EpiPen.
- To raise awareness of anaphylaxis and its management through education and policy implementation.

GUIDELINES FOR ACTION

1. At enrollment, staff must actively seek information to identify students with severe life threatening allergies.
2. Ensure care is provided immediately for any student who develops signs of an allergic attack.
3. The Assistant Principal will have the responsibility to ensure that all students with anaphylaxis have an up to date (annual) written anaphylaxis management plan consistent with DEECD requirements completed by their doctor or paediatrician. This will be in consultation with staff responsible for administration of first aid.
4. Appropriate plan proforma is available at www.sofwe.vic.edu.au/wellbeing/support/anaphl.htm
Copies of each child's Anaphylaxis plans will be stored:
 - in clearly marked folders in the First Aid cabinet
 - on display in the General Office
 - in the students classroom
5. Advise parents and guardians that they are responsible for ensuring that the school is supplied with an EpiPen for storage at schools.

6. Ensure that the individual student's EpiPen kit is stored in a location that is:
 - Known to all staff (First Aid Cabinet)
 - Easily accessible by adults
 - Inaccessible to children
 - Away from direct sources of heat
7. Ensure that there is a school EpiPen kit and that it is accompanied by clear written instructions on the use of an EpiPen.
8. Provide information to all staff (including specialist, casual relief, OSHCP, and office staff) so they are aware of students at risk and school preventative and emergency procedures.
9. Ensure that folders are provided for casual relief staff that outlines emergency procedures and students at risk of an anaphylactic response.
10. Ensure that up to date photographs are attached to yard duty bum bags each year.
11. Professional development will be provided annually for staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of anaphylaxis attacks, including the use of the EpiPen.
12. Information will be provided on a care/sheet with a photograph of the student/s concerned and displayed on the walls of the relevant classroom, specialist rooms, staffroom and First Aid room.
13. A letter will be sent at the commencement of the school year to the parents of all students in the same classroom as a child at risk of an anaphylaxis, advising them of the condition and the prevention strategies required. Parents will be requested to sign a letter and return it to school to advise that they have read the letter.
14. Subsequent letters will be sent out as necessary or as advised by the students Anaphylaxis Management Plan.
15. Community education notices about anaphylaxis will be made available to the parents group at the commencement of the school year and in the school newsletter once per term.
16. Where possible students will be directly supervised while eating play lunch, lunch and during special events where food is consumed (ie Healthy Lunch Day)
17. Classes with children, who have anaphylaxis, will hold a specific class lesson on the condition and required prevention strategies, at the commencement of the school year and as required throughout the year. Where appropriate, posters will be displayed on anaphylaxis.
18. Office staff will be responsible for checking EpiPen expiry dates and advising the parents when a replacement is required.
19. Encourage ongoing communication between the parents/caregivers and the staff about current status of the students allergies.
20. When on excursion, sporting activity or camp ensure that supervising adults have a mobile phone, know the exact location and are aware of emergency procedures.
21. Ensure that the EpiPen kit for each child at risk of anaphylaxis is carried by a trained adult on any excursions or sporting activities the child attends.
22. Ensure that the EpiPen kit for each child at risk of anaphylaxis is part of the first aid organization where relevant at any school camp.
23. Review the students Anaphylaxis Management plan annually or if the students circumstances changes, in consultation with parents.

Endorsed by School Council 18/08/2008.

Evaluation: