



ANAPHYLAXIS

POLICY

Rationale:

- Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (such as food or an insect bite). Although allergic reactions are common in children, severe life threatening reactions are uncommon and deaths are rare. However, anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and always requires emergency response. MaroonDAH Secondary College acknowledge that the management of a student at risk of anaphylaxis is a partnership between the College, the staff, the student, the student's parents and the student's doctor.

Aims:

- To provide a safe and healthy school environment that takes into consideration the needs of all students, including those who may suffer from anaphylaxis.
- To minimise risk of anaphylactic reaction by providing, as far as practicable, a safe, healthy environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of school life. *All stakeholders need to be made aware that it is not possible to achieve a completely allergen-free environment in any facility that is open to the general community.*

Implementation:

- Our school will manage anaphylaxis by:-
 - providing professional development for all staff
 - identifying susceptible students and knowing their allergens
 - informing the community about anaphylaxis
 - ensuring food supplied by the canteen is labelled if it contains nuts, and making students aware of the food labelling processes
 - requiring parents to provide an emergency management plan developed by a health professional and an EpiPen if necessary, both of which will be maintained in the general office for reference as required
 - ensuring staff are provided with regular professional development on the identification and response to anaphylaxis and the proper use of an EpiPen.
 - Informing staff in charge of classes where allergens are most likely to exist
 - As per management plan, ensuring EpiPens are taken on camps, excursions or any occasion away from the school environs.
- The school won't ban certain types of foods (eg: nuts) as it is not practicable to do so, and is not a strategy recommended by the Department of Education or the Royal Children's Hospital.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

June 2008

MAROONDAH SECONDARY COLLEGE

ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT PLAN

PROCEDURE

Identification

The medical section of the Student Details form includes the necessary questions that will easily identify students at risk of anaphylaxis.

- New students will be identified from information on this form provided by parents/guardians at the time of enrolment
- Current students' parents/guardians will be required to inform the school of any occurrence of severe allergy or anaphylactic reaction as soon as they are aware

Information and Awareness

- Photo identification of students at risk of anaphylaxis, along with EpiPen locations will be displayed in the staff room, sick bay and discreetly placed inside the college canteen
- Permission from parents/guardians will be sought to distribute appropriate information to staff for the sole purpose of warning the school staff of the student's allergy and to assist in an emergency
- Staff will be informed of their duty of care to students in an anaphylaxis emergency and designated staff will attend training in emergency procedures and EpiPen administration by an accredited trainer provided by the school
- The school nurse/first aid support person will advise staff of any changes in the management of students at risk of anaphylaxis and of newly diagnosed students as information becomes available
- The school nurse/first aid support person will provide information for teachers use to raise awareness of anaphylaxis where appropriate

EpiPens and Individual Emergency Action Plans

- It will be a compulsory requirement for parents/guardians of students at risk of anaphylaxis to provide the school with:
 - (a) and individualised Emergency Action Plan signed by the student's doctor and themselves, and
 - (b) an EpiPen with a pharmacy label particular to their child
- Antihistamine and ventolin will also need to be supplied if prescribed, along with documentation of the correct dose
- Parents are to replace the EpiPen before it has expired or when it has been used. The school nurse/first aid support person will inform parents/guardians one month before expiry date

EpiPens will be kept in unlocked cupboards or in easily accessible places. The location of the EpiPen will be made after consultation with the student, parent and school nurse or first aid support person. The location of each student's EpiPen will be displayed (along with student photos) in the most appropriate areas for each child.

- A register of EpiPens will be kept in the Sick Bay recording all students with EpiPens, the strength and expiry date
- An EpiPen must accompany students at risk of anaphylaxis on any off campus activity. Staff are responsible for ensuring that the EpiPen is taken, for its safe transportation and for its return to school.
- Each student's Emergency Action Plan and EpiPen location and expiry date of EpiPen will be reviewed and/or updated annually or as necessary. The school nurse/or first aid support person will co-ordinate the annual review of Emergency Response Plans
- Staff will be required to discuss management of an anaphylactic reaction when the student is involved in activities away from school, e.g. camps, outdoor activities, excursions. Consultation with the school nurse/or first aid support person, student and parents may be necessary.

A medical alert will be completed for each child at risk of anaphylaxis on CASES21.

STRATEGIES TO MINIMISE THE RISK OF ANAPHYLAXIS

1. Ensure staff know all children at risk of anaphylaxis
 - Staff information sessions to be held
 - Student photographs to be displayed to improve recognition of students with anaphylaxis
2. List names and year levels of the “at risk” students, along with their known allergens and potential sources of allergens.
3. Actively share the responsibility with parents/guardians of each child at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, checking expiry date of EpiPen and updating anaphylaxis plans. School nurse/first aide support person should review these plans annually.
4. Ensure that each family of an at risk child receives a copy of the Anaphylaxis Management Plan.
5. Ensure all families of at risk students are aware that no student who has been prescribed an EpiPen is permitted to attend school without a current anaphylaxis plan and an appropriate EpiPen.

STRATEGIES TO FACILITATE THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF ANAPHYLAXIS

Responsibilities of all school staff

- 1 Recognition of all students at risk of anaphylaxis and their particular allergy..
- 2 Recognition of signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis
- 3 Ensure knowledge of communication procedures and equipment in place to gain assistance.
- 4 Review procedures regularly. Know whom to call.

Additional responsibilities of anaphylaxis management trained staff – school nurse/first aide support person

Know who will:

- Administer the EpiPen and stay with the child
- Who will telephone the ambulance and parents
- Who will supervise others
- Who will direct the ambulance officers to the school

Ensure access to information to aid in the treatment of an affected student (anaphylaxis management plan), and that staff have access to the EpiPen. Staff should be informed where each child’s EpiPen is located.

Have a number of staff attend training sessions with accredited trainers to ensure they have the knowledge and confidence to deal with anaphylaxis

An EpiPen kit (an insulated lunch bag containing anaphylaxis plan and emergency telephone contact details) should be taken by a trained staff member on any excursions attended by the at risk child. Prescribed antihistamines may also be included.