

MacKillop College



Policy: Anaphylaxis

Introduction

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, latex, certain insect stings and medication.

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

Adrenaline given through an EpiPen® auto injector to the muscle of the outer mid thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

Objective

The Anaphylaxis policy aims 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.
- raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the college's anaphylaxis policy in the MacKillop community
- engage with parents/guardians of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student.
- ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

Anaphylaxis Management Plans

The First Aid Officer will ensure that an individual management 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 individual anaphylaxis management plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls, and where possible before their first day of school.

The individual anaphylaxis management plan will 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 Outdoor Education experiences, camps and excursions.
- The name of the person/s responsible for implementing the strategies.
- Information on where the student's medication will be stored.
- The student's emergency contact details.

- An emergency procedures plan from the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy inc. (ASCIA Action Plan), provided by the parent/guardian, that:
 - sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction;
 - is signed by a medical practitioner who was treating the child on the date the practitioner signs the emergency procedures plan; and
 - includes an up to date photograph of the student.

The student's individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/guardians:

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

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to:

- provide the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).
- inform the school if their son/daughter's medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).

Implementation

Principal's commitment

The principal, within the scope of his authority, will be responsible for ensuring that:

- All staff are briefed once each semester by a 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 adrenaline injecting device
 - the school's first aid and emergency response procedures
- Teachers and other school staff who conduct classes, in which students at risk of anaphylaxis attend, or give instruction to students at risk of anaphylaxis, have up-to-date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.
- There is a sufficient number of staff present who have up-to-date training in an anaphylaxis management training course while the student is under the care or supervision of the college, including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days
- Training will be provided to staff.
- The school's first aid procedures and students emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

Staff commitment

Staff are responsible for being supportive of and cooperating with staff responsible for carrying out the objectives of this policy.

Review Date

This Policy will be reviewed in: February 2010

Signature

Rory Kennedy
(Principal)

Date: _____