

Wooragee Primary School

Anaphylaxis Policy

Rationale:

- Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction when a person is exposed to an allergen. The most common allergens in children are; eggs, peanuts, nuts, cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, insect stings and medications.
- Anaphylaxis is a serious health issue for a percentage of the population and the school recognises the key to preventing an anaphylactic reaction by a student is knowledge, awareness and planning.
- On 14 July 2008, *the Children's Services and Education Legislation Amendment (Anaphylaxis Management) Act 2008* came into effect amending the *Children's Services Act 1996* and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* requiring that all licensed children's services and schools have an anaphylaxis management policy in place.
- The school supports a culture (values, expectations and standards) and shared commitment to zero tolerance of child abuse, and arrangements that allow it to occur will not be tolerated. The school takes into consideration the diversity of the children attending the school, and their particular vulnerabilities. e.g. children with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Aim:

- To provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment that takes into consideration the health condition and needs of all students.
- To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy in the school community.
- To develop risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for anaphylactic students.
- To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about identifying and responding to allergies and anaphylactic reactions.

Implementation:

- The school will fully comply with Ministerial Order 706 and the associated Guidelines.
- Anaphylaxis is best prevented by knowing and avoiding the allergens. All staff, visiting teachers, casual relief teachers (CRTs), and volunteers in the kitchen garden program will be made aware of any student allergies and the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis include hives/rash, tingling in or around the mouth, abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhoea, facial swelling, cough or wheeze, difficulty breathing or swallowing, loss of consciousness or collapse, or cessation of breathing.
- Our school will manage anaphylaxis by:-
 - Providing professional development for all staff as per Department regulations.
 - Providing all staff with an opportunity to undertake and update first aid training annually at the school's expense.
 - Ensuring the staff attends mandated twice yearly briefings on anaphylaxis management under Ministerial Order 706 if a student who is at risk of having an anaphylactic reaction is enrolled in the school.
 - Using risk management strategies to minimise the risk of an anaphylactic reaction for in-school and out-of-school settings (See Discussion Guide Ideas on Risk Minimisation Strategies)
 - Following first aid emergency procedures when responding to a suspected anaphylactic reaction for a student not previously identified as anaphylactic.
 - Ensuring the first aid kit always has an in-date child recommended EpiPen/Anapen (adrenaline auto-injection device) as part of the school first aid kit at school, and on camps, excursions and sporting events.
- In the case of a student being identified as anaphylactic, an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan, that relates to the allergy and potential anaphylactic reaction for each

affected student will be developed in consultation with the student (if applicable), the student's parents/carers and medical practitioner.

(A template of an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan can be found in Appendix 3 of the Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Victorian Schools or the Department's website:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/anaphylaxisschl.aspx>)

- The Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls, and where possible before their first day they attend the school. It is the responsibility of the child's Parents to:
 - provide the ASCIA Action Plan to the school;
 - inform the School in writing if their child's medical condition, insofar as it relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, changes and if relevant, provide an updated ASCIA Action Plan;
 - provide an up to date photo for the ASCIA Action Plan when that Plan is provided to the School and when it is reviewed; and
 - provide the School with an Adrenaline Autoinjector that is current and not expired for their child.
- The principal will ensure staff will be trained in following the ASCIA Plan in an emergency.

The Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will set out the following:

- information about the student's medical condition that relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, including the type of allergy/allergies the student has (based on a written diagnosis from a Medical Practitioner);
- strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to known and notified allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of School Staff, for in-school and out-of-school settings including in the school yard, at camps and excursions, or at special events conducted, organised or attended by the School;
- 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; and
- the ASCIA Action Plan.

Note: The red and blue 'ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis' is the recognised form for emergency procedure plans that is provided by Medical Practitioners to Parents when a child is diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis. An example can be found in Appendix 3 of the Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Victorian Schools or the Department's website:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/anaphylaxisschl.aspx>)

- The principal in conjunction with staff and parents will complete an Annual Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklist for anaphylactic students and after an anaphylactic response.

Related policies and documents

- Ministerial Order No 706
- DET Discussion Guide Ideas on Risk Minimisation Strategies
- [Royal Children's Hospital Anaphylaxis Advisory Line](#) – is available between the hours of 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Phone 1300 725 911 (toll free) or (03) 9345 4235.
- [Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy \(ASCIA\)](#)
- [ASCIA Guidelines](#) – for prevention of food anaphylactic reactions in schools, preschools and childcare centres
- [Anaphylaxis Australia](#)

Evaluation:

- The Principal will complete an annual Risk Management Checklist as published by DET to monitor compliance with their obligations. **Note: A template of the Risk Management Checklist can be found at Appendix 4 of the Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Victorian Schools or the Department's website:**
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/anaphylaxisschl.aspx>
- This policy will be reviewed every three years or as required.

Ratified: July 2017

Review Date: July 2020