

Anaphylaxis Management Policy

Purpose

Carrum Downs Secondary College is committed to the safety of all children and young people. 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.

Aim

- 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 in the school community.
- To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, develop risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student.
- To ensure that staff members have adequate knowledge of allergies and anaphylaxis and are aware of the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

Implementation

An individual management plan will be developed, in consultation with the parents of any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis. It will be in place as soon as practicable following the student's enrolment.

The individual anaphylaxis management plan will include:

- Information about the diagnosis including the type of allergy or allergies (based on a diagnosis from a medical practitioner).
- A range of preventive strategies that minimise the risk of exposure to allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of school staff.
- 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 (ASCIA Action Plan), provided by the parent and agreement to participate in annual reviews.

Parents must also provide the school with an adrenaline auto injector. Students who do not provide an adrenaline auto injector will not be permitted to attend excursions and camps.

The principal will ensure that a communication plan is developed to:

- Provide information to all staff, students and parents about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy.
- To provide information about what steps will be taken to respond to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in a classroom, in the school yard, on school excursions, school camps and special event days.
- Brief staff on the identities of students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis, where their medication is located and how to use an auto adrenaline injecting device.
- Ensure that teachers and other school staff who conduct classes which students at risk of anaphylaxis attend, or give instruction to students at risk of anaphylaxis must have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.

Where a student has an EpiPen they are required to have it with them at all times, including excursions and camps. In the case of excursions and camps attended by a student at risk of anaphylaxis, staff will carry a first aid kit with an EpiPen.

Evaluation: This policy will be reviewed as part of the College's review cycle

Related policies: School Policy Advisory Guide – <http://www.education.vic.gov.au>

This policy was endorsed by the College Council in March, 2017