

Anaphylaxis Policy



VALUES: Love, compassion, justice, dignity, self-discipline, tolerance, respect.

Definition

Anaphylaxis (allergic shock) is a **severe and sudden** allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (such as a food or an insect bite). Reactions usually begin within minutes of exposure and can progress rapidly over a period of up to two hours or more. Anaphylaxis is potentially **life threatening** and always requires an **emergency response**. Anaphylactic Reactions are **preventable**.

Rationale

The Emmanuel Catholic Primary School Anaphylaxis Policy aims to:

- Safely support, within the school environment, students with anaphylaxis and severe allergies.
- Develop and maintain a school action and implementation plan, when dealing with students who have critical life threatening allergies.
- Provide a position for the community on food management, hygiene, safe food handling, parent education, student education and tuckshop and classroom protocols to proactively and reactively support these students.
- Identify the role of the Emmanuel School community members in the implementation of the policy
- Document the school community' s agreed position on, and accepted procedures for dealing with students with Anaphylaxis

Policy Statement

At Emmanuel Catholic Primary School we seek to educate all students and staff regarding the life threatening effects of Anaphylaxis. We will work in partnership with parents, medical staff and Diocesan WHS authorities, to ensure safe, appropriate intervention for these students. The school will commit to responsible and achievable management practices in reducing any foreseeable risks associated with the support of students with anaphylaxis, within the school environment and within school associated activities.

Consequences

- An enrolment application support process will be implemented for all Anaphylactic students.
- The document, ' Anaphylaxis – Guidelines for School' will be used to guide the management of students who have been identified, by a medical practitioner, as being at risk of an anaphylactic reaction.

- Staff training in the recognition of signs and symptoms of anaphylactic shock and emergency response procedures, including the use of an EpiPen , will occur on an annual basis, or as required.
- School will conduct a range of anaphylaxis awareness and education activities throughout the year. These will include:
 - ✓ letters to parents
 - ✓ signs around the school
 - ✓ active teaching about food allergies, including elements of the M.A.T.E. Program (Make Allergy Treatment Easy)
- The identification of students at risk of an anaphylactic reaction will include :
 - a) photo identification in the office, classroom (including specialist teachers' rooms) and tuckshop.
 - b) wearing of a yellow school hat and wrist band.
- Parents of students at risk of an anaphylactic reaction, are responsible for informing the school of any changes to their Child' s Individual Health Plan and supporting the implementation of strategies to ensure a safe learning environment exists.
- Regular reviews of risk management documents must be undertaken to ensure optimal safety for anaphylactic students.
- The school will implement a 'Risk Minimisation' approach with regards to particular foods (eg. peanuts and tree nuts).

Glossary

Adrenaline: a chemical naturally produced by the body when feeling anxious or stressed. It makes a human' s heart beat faster, increases blood pressure and blood sugar levels.

Allergic Re-action: a reaction cause by **inhaling**, **swallowing** or **touching** a substance to which a person is sensitive. It can also be the result of injections, insect stings or bites.

Anaphylaxis: is a when a person suffers a severe allergic reaction, usually caused by swallowing a substance to which a person is highly allergic to, such as peanuts. Reactions can also result from insect bites/stings or medications (eg: penicillin) If untreated the anaphylactic shock may cause death. Someone who is suffering an Anaphylactic reaction may display one or some of the following indicators in the following areas of their body...

- skin – itching hives
- upper airways – swelling of the throat and vocal cords, which can lead to an obstruction in breathing
- nose - sneezing, blocking, watering runny nose

- lungs – wheezing and asthma
- circulatory system – a fall in blood pressure or collapse

Epipen: a pre loaded syringe that injects a single dose of adrenaline for the emergency treatment of anaphylactic shock.

Reaction: a chemical change within the body with visible and noticeable side effects

Policy Area : Administration

Draft Number Final

Replaces N/A

First Presented : 2006

Completed: Tuesday June 16, 2006

Board Membership, John Attard, Darryl Caracciolo, Martin Casey, Liz Bridge, Debbie Mallet, Fr Don White, Michael McCusker