

Rationale:

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 are important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from affected students 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.

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.
- 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, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student.
- To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

Implementation:

- The principal will ensure that an individual management plan is developed, in consultation with the student's parents, 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:
 - 1) Information about the diagnosis, including the type of allergy or allergies the student has (based on a diagnosis from a medical practitioner).
 - 2) 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 camps and excursions.
 - 3) The name of the person/s responsible for implementing the strategies.
 - 4) Information on where the student's medication will be stored.
 - 5) The student's emergency contact details.
 - 6) An emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan), provided by the parent, that:
 - a. sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction;
 - b. is signed by a medical practitioner who was treating the child on the date the practitioner signs the emergency procedures plan; and
 - c. 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/ carers:
 - a. annually, and as applicable,
 - b. if the student's condition changes, or
 - c. immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school.
- It is the responsibility of the parent to:
 - a. provide the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).
 - b. inform the school if their child's medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).
 - c. provide an up to date photo for the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) when the plan is provided to the school and when it is reviewed.
 - d. provide an in date adrenaline auto-injector to the First Aid Coordinator.
 - e. make note of the expiry date of the adrenaline auto-injector provided to the school and ensure that it is replaced before the date of expiry.

Communication Plan

- The principal will be responsible for ensuring that a communication plan is developed to provide information to all staff, students and parents about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy.
- The communication plan will include 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, on school camps and special event days.
- Volunteers and casual relief staff of students at risk of anaphylaxis will be informed of students at risk and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in their care, by the area coordinator. An information sheet will be provided to Casual Relief Staff advising of students in the school who are at risk of anaphylaxis.
- All staff will be briefed once each semester by a staff member who has current 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 adrenaline auto-injecting device
 - the school's first aid and emergency response procedures

Adrenaline Auto-injectors for General Use :

The principal will purchase Adrenaline Auto-injectors for General Use and as a back up to those supplied by Parents.

Lynbrook PS has four (4) adrenaline auto-injectors for general use in the First Aid Room:

2 x Epipen Junior (0.15 mg)

2 x Epipen (0.3 mg)

The First Aid attendant will be responsible for checking the expiry date of these auto-injectors and to advise the Principal when it is time to purchase replacement devices. The auto-injectors will be stored with an ASCIA anaphylaxis action plan for general use.

School Management

- No student who has been prescribed an adrenaline auto-injector is permitted to attend the school or school related activities without providing an auto-injector and doctor-authorised ASCIA Action Plan for anaphylaxis.
- Student's adrenaline auto-injectors supplied by the parents will be stored in the First Aid Room.
- Where a student is attending activities offsite, the designated teacher in charge of first aid for the excursion will sign out the student's adrenaline auto-injector and return it to the School First Aid room upon returning to the school.
- Grade teachers of students identified at risk of an anaphylactic reaction to food will be supplied with antiseptic wipes which may be used to wipe hands & table tops as the need arises.

Raising Student Awareness

- Classroom teachers will :
 - Reinforce the importance of good hygiene to minimise risks of allergens being transferred
 - Reinforce the importance of not sharing food
 - Ensure students are aware of the seriousness of allergic reactions and what they are to do if they encounter a peer experiencing an allergic reaction.

Raising School Community Awareness

- To raise the awareness about anaphylaxis in the school community so that there is an increased understanding of this condition, the school will :
 - Provide a copy of the anaphylaxis policy to all new staff
 - Publish information about anaphylaxis in school newsletters
 - Display ASCIA generic posters in key locations such as noticeboard, staffroom & gymnasium

Staff Training

- 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 successfully completed an anaphylaxis ASCIA e-training course every two years (including a practical demonstration of administering an adrenaline auto-injector) and participate in a twice yearly briefing conducted by a staff member who has current anaphylaxis management training.
- The First Aid Attendant and an additional staff member are required to successfully undertake :
 - Accredited anaphylaxis awareness training course every three years; and
 - Verifying the correct use of an adrenaline auto injector course every three years; in addition to
 - ASCIA anaphylaxis e-training every two years

This training will qualify the staff members to conduct the twice yearly staff briefing.

- At other times while the student is under the care or supervision of the school, including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days, the principal must ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff present who have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.
- The principal will identify the school staff to be trained based on a risk assessment.
- Training will be provided to these staff as soon as practicable after the student enrolls.
- Wherever possible, training will take place before the student's first day at school. Where this is not possible, an interim plan will be developed in consultation with the parents.
- The school's first aid procedures and students emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed annually or immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school.
This policy was last ratified by School Council in 2016