



MacKillop College

Policy: Anaphylaxis

Introduction

As a Catholic school, MacKillop is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for students who have or may develop severe, life threatening allergies. 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. Adrenaline given through an EpiPen® auto injector to the muscle of the outer mid thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

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. In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, the school's first aid and emergency response procedures and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan must be followed.

Principles:

MacKillop College is committed to:

- planning for the safety and participation of members of its community
- complying with the Victorian Government Ministerial Order 706 of 22 April, 2014
- regularly reviewing and updating policies and procedures in relation to anaphylaxis, first aid and emergency response
- managing risks in relation to anaphylaxis, first aid and emergency response

Objectives:

MacKillop College 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 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 an adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction

Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans

The First Aid Officer will ensure that an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan is developed for each student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis. This is to be done in consultation with the student's parents/guardians. The Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls, preferably 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
- the storage location of the student's medication
- 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
 - includes an up to date photograph of the student

In consultation with the student's parents/guardians the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be reviewed:

- 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)
- ensure that their son/daughter has an Adrenaline Autoinjector that is current (not expired) at all times

Implementation:

i) Principal Commitment

The Principal (within the scope of their authority) is responsible for ensuring that:

- the objectives of this policy are integrated into practice
- training in anaphylaxis management will be provided to staff
- 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 are sufficient staff present who have up-to-date anaphylaxis management training while the student is under the care or supervision of the College including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days
- the school's first aid procedures and students emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed when responding to an anaphylactic reaction

ii) Staff Commitment

Staff are responsible for ensuring that:

- they comply with this Policy and all associated procedures and guidelines relating to anaphylaxis management, first aid and emergency response
- they work cooperatively with those who administer this policy

This policy works in conjunction with the following policies, procedures, provisions and guidelines:

- all MacKillop College Policies and any procedures pertaining to first aid, excursions and emergency response

Date: November 2015

Rory Kennedy
(Principal)