



# St John's College

## Anaphylaxis Management Policy

### **Rationale**

St John's College fully complies with Ministerial Order 706 and the Associated Guidelines published and amended by the Department of Education and Training from time to time.

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 the student while at school.

Adrenaline given through an EpiPen® autoinjector to the muscle of the outer mid thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

### **Purpose:**

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 students 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.

The key reference and support for the school regarding anaphylaxis is the Department of Education and Training Anaphylaxis Guidelines.

### **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.

An 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 or allergies the student has (based on a 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 name, address and phone number of the student's parents and an emergency contact details; and
- An ASCIA Action Plan

The red and blue 'ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis' is the recognised form of emergency procedure plans that is provided by medical practitioners to parents when a child is diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis. This can be downloaded from

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

School Staff will then implement and monitor the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan. The Student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents in all the following circumstances:

- annually;
- if the student's medical condition, insofar as it relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, changes;
- as soon as practicable after the student has an anaphylactic reaction at School; and
- when the student is to participate in an off-site activity, such as camps and excursions, or at special events conducted, organised or attended by the School (eg: class parties, elective subjects, cultural days, fetes, incursions).

It is the responsibility of the parent to:

- provide the ASCIA Action Plan;
- inform the school if their child's medical condition changes, 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 the plan is provided to the school and when it is reviewed; and
- provide the School with an Adreanine Autoinjector that is current and not expired for their child.

## **PREVENTION STRATEGIES**

Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans and ASCIA Action Plans will be placed in:

- The students' classroom;
- The Anaphylaxis Folder in the Sick Bay;
- The Anaphylaxis records on SEQTA;
- The Student's Medication container in first Aid cabinets;
- After School care.

Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans for Camps will accompany Camp First Aid packs/Excursions First Aid packs.

## **Communication to Parents**

Our Anaphylaxis Guidelines and procedures will be made available to parents via our website.

## **References**

- Ministerial Order 706
- Department of Education and Training Anaphylaxis Policy
- Department of Education and Training Health Support Planning Policy

## **Evaluation**

- This policy will be reviewed Biennially