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 (eg 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 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.
- To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergens, anaphylaxis and the school’s policy and procedures for responding to an anaphylactic emergency.

Guidelines:

- Severe anaphylaxis reactions can develop within minutes after exposure to the allergen and require swift response of adrenaline (EpiPen).
- Parents should identify if their child is at risk of anaphylaxis at the time of enrolment.
- It is the responsibility of the Principal/Assistant Principal and First Aid officer to meet with parents and class teachers to share the anaphylaxis management plan (based on the advice from the student’s doctor) for their child yearly.
- All staff shall be made aware of relevant information for all students at risk of anaphylaxis at the first full staff meeting for the year and as part of new staff induction. Any anaphylaxis updates or new management plans will be shared at Staff meetings throughout the year as required.
- Casual Relief Teachers (CRT’s) employed to teach classes where students have been identified as being at risk of anaphylactic reaction will be required to familiarise themselves with the relevant student and the relevant management plan (placed in the teachers CRT folder or displayed in the classroom).

Links
**Implementation:**
Parents will be responsible for-
- Providing an Individual Anaphylaxis Emergency Action Plan (from Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy Action Plan) for their child that has been developed in consultation with a medical practitioner.
- Providing information at time of enrolment about their child’s allergies and if needed an Individual Anaphylaxis Emergency Action Plan (ASCIA Action Plan) for their child.
- Providing one up to date EpiPen for school use.
- The timely replacement of medications/Epipens to ensure their child’s safety.
- Informing the school if their child’s medical condition changes, and if relevant, providing updated emergency procedures plan accordingly.

The Individual Anaphylaxis Emergency Action Plans (ASCIA) provided by parents will:
- Contain detailed information about diagnosis, including the type of allergy or allergies the student has based on diagnosis by medical practitioner.
- Provide strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens while the student is under care/supervision of school staff, for in school and out of school settings such as camps, special event days and excursions.
- Contain a current photo for the ASCIA Action Plan when it is provided to the school and whenever it is reviewed.
- Contain current parent emergency contact phone numbers.
- Provide an explanation of symptoms and directions for action should a reaction occur.
- Be signed by a medical practitioner who is treating the child on the date of signing the emergency procedure plan and includes an up to date photograph of the student.


The school will ensure that:
- Individual Anaphylaxis Action Plans are displayed in the child’s classroom, and the First Aid room. A copy of the student’s management plan will be kept in the Office with parent contact details.
- Individual photos and information posters outlining students allergy and management plan will be displayed in the Staffroom, Student’s classroom, Specialist rooms, First Aid room and the Office.
- The First Aid Coordinator updates school first aid records in accordance with action plans annually or if conditions change or reactions occur.
- Individual Anaphylaxis Emergency Action Plans are reviewed in consultation with parents/carers annually, if conditions change or immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school.
- All school staff are trained in Anaphylaxis risk assessment and management as soon as practicable from the start of the school year.
- Epipens are carried by school staff on excursions and camps and are passed from teacher to teacher.
- At risk students who are under the care or supervision of the school are provided with a sufficient number of staff present who have current training in anaphylaxis management.
- Induction of new teachers will include anaphylaxis awareness information.
- Appropriate training will be sought as soon as possible for new staff.
- The school’s anaphylaxis policy is accessible via the staff shared folder on the schools server.
• Casual Relief Teacher (CRT) coordinator informs CRT’s of students at risk of anaphylaxis in their class.
• Teachers will provide information about students at risk of anaphylaxis to Casual Relief Teachers.
• Staff are briefed once a semester by the First Aid Coordinator who has up to dare anaphylaxis management training on;
  o School’s anaphylaxis management policy
  o The causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis.
  o The identities of students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis and where their medication is stored.
  o How to use an EpiPen (auto adrenaline injecting device)
  o The schools first aid procedures, students emergency management procedures (ASCIA action plan) to be followed
  o When responding to an anaphylactic reaction.
• Anaphylaxis awareness information is provided for the whole school community through the school newsletter once a term.
• Epipens of children identified at risk are kept in a lockable cabinet in the first aid room (central to the school) clearly labelled.
• The school will own a spare Junior and Adult Epipen as a precaution.
• A list will be kept of the expiry dates of all Epipens to allow notification to parents before they expire.

School staff will follow these prevention strategies through ensuring teachers:
• Know student/s in their class who are at risk and be familiar with their individual management plans and have up to training in anaphylaxis management.
• Explain and enforce Echuca South Primary School’s No Food Sharing policy to students and make sure that they policy is followed in the classroom and the playground.
• Have regular discussions with students about the importance of washing hands, eating their own food and not sharing food with others.
• Send parent permission notices home to all parents/carers about food related activities ahead of time including a list of ingredients to be used. Whole school activities, which involve food, should always be handled in a controlled manner and must consider the guidelines and implementation principles of this policy.
• Send parent permission notices home to all parents about classroom activities that may pose a risk to students with anaphylaxis.
• Ensure that treats from outside sources are not given to students.
• Be aware of hidden allergens or ingredients used for cooking, science and technology or art classes eg egg or milk cartons.
• Know where medication for at risk students is stored and how to use it.

Evaluation:
• The effectiveness of the Anaphylaxis Management Procedures will be monitored and reviewed regularly by the First Aid Coordinator, Principal and School Council in conjunction with parents and students involved.
• This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....
Review in

| 2005 |
| 2015 |

Links