



# Mentone Primary School Anaphylaxis Management Policy

THIS POLICY WAS RATIFIED IN:

October 2008

## BACKGROUND

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® 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 student's schooling.
- To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policy in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

## IMPLEMENTATION

- Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening condition.
- Signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis include hives/rash, tingling in or around the mouth, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, facial swelling, cough or wheeze, difficulty breathing or swallowing, loss of consciousness or collapse, or cessation of breathing.
- Anaphylaxis is best prevented by knowing and avoiding allergens.

### Our school will manage anaphylaxis by:

- Providing professional development for all staff.
- All staff will be briefed at least twice a year by a staff member who has up to date anaphylaxis management training.
- Identifying susceptible students and knowing their allergens.
- Informing the community about anaphylaxis via the newsletter.
- Requiring parents to provide an Action Plan for Anaphylaxis document which has been developed by a health professional and an EpiPen if necessary, both of which will be maintained and displayed in the staff room for reference as required.
- Ensuring that all staff are provided with professional development on the response to anaphylaxis and the proper use of an EpiPen.
- CRT information books will have an updated list of all the children who suffer from anaphylaxis.
- If required, volunteers will be informed of any children who suffer from anaphylaxis.
- Identification posters of children with anaphylaxis will be distributed to each staff member to be discretely displayed within the classroom.



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- Smaller identification posters of children with anaphylaxis will be placed in every yard duty 'bum bag'.
- Staff members who are on yard duty will carry a mobile phone / walkie talkie for emergencies.
- In the event of an anaphylaxis emergency a staff member will follow the action plan (outlined below).

## **SCHOOL ACTION PLAN**

- If there is an anaphylaxis emergency **in a classroom**, teachers will ring the office. An available staff member will promptly bring the individual child's EpiPen to the appropriate classroom.
- If there is an anaphylaxis emergency **in the playground**, teachers will use their mobile phone to ring the office. An available staff member will promptly bring the individual child's EpiPen to the appropriate classroom.
  1. A staff member (trained in use of EpiPen) will administer the adrenaline auto injecting device to the student needing treatment (using student's EpiPen and following the action plan for that particular student).
  2. A staff member will ring for an ambulance. First aid staff will reassure and monitor student until the ambulance arrives.
  3. A staff member will need to wait at the school entrance to direct ambulance officers to the emergency scene.
  4. A staff member will ring parents / guardians to inform them of the situation.

## **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.