



IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL No 5152

ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT POLICY

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 students who have been diagnosed at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens), and prevention of exposure to these triggers. Partnerships between the school and parents/guardians 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.

Aims:

- To comply with Ministerial Order 706 and the associated guidelines published and amended by the Department of Education and Training (DET).
- 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/guardians 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:

- 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 student's individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/guardians annually or when conditions change.
- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to:
 - provide the emergency procedures plan – Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Action Plan
 - inform the school if their child's medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan)
 - 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
 - provide appropriate/current medication as directed by medical *practitioner*.
- The school will provide information to all staff, students and parents *about the school's anaphylaxis management policy*.
- A copy of the student's ASCIA Action Plan will be located around the school including the classroom, student's class file, the canteen, the sick bay, all specialist classrooms and noted in Casual Replacement Teacher folders.
- Information about children with anaphylaxis will be provided to teachers on yard duty.
- The school will use the 'Anaphylaxis Guidelines as a Resource for Managing Severe Allergies in Victorian Government Schools' as a guide in managing anaphylaxis.
- All staff will be involved in a formal anaphylaxis management awareness training program every three years facilitated by an accredited trainer.

- All staff will participate in two anaphylaxis familiarisation, management and awareness sessions during the school year.
- For consistency only EpiPens® will be used at school.
- EpiPens® are stored in an unlocked cupboard in the sick bay.
- Individual EpiPens® are clearly labelled with the child's name and grade.
- A map of the school clearly identifying the grades of children with anaphylaxis is placed in the sick bay.
- The school will purchase a back-up auto injectors for general use.
- The First Aid officer is responsible for ensuring that all EpiPens® are checked annually for expiry dates.
- Parents will be immediately contacted if their child shows signs/symptoms of anaphylaxis.
- Staff will follow the recommendations as stated in the children's individual ASCIA Action Plan and Individual Management plan.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.
- This policy has been developed in line with the DET guidelines from:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/anaphylaxisschl.aspx>