

School of the Holy Spirit

Anaphylaxis Policy

Introduction:

This policy is deemed necessary as a whole school approach to the health care and management of members of the school community who experience specific serious allergies. Our aim is to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, plan for effective response to possible emergencies and become an "allergy aware" environment. We will treat all serious allergies under this policy. It is written for students but should be read for either students or staff members.

Rationale:

The intent of this policy is to minimise the risk of any student suffering allergy induced anaphylaxis whilst at school or attending any school related activity and staff are properly prepared to manage such emergency situations should they arise.

Definitions:

Allergy: A damaging immune response by the body to a substance, especially a particular food, pollen, fur or dust, to which it has become hypersensitive.

Allergen: A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.

Anaphylaxis: A sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites or medicines.

Anapen/Epipen: Brand name for a syringe-like devices containing the drug Adrenalin which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration.

Medical Plan: A detailed school document outlining an individual student's medical condition, treatment, and action plan for the use of an Anapen/Epipen.

The Role of the School:

- Follow the procedures laid out in this policy
- Secure appropriate training for staff working with a student who has an identified allergy condition.
- Ensure that staff working with a student in this category is aware of all relevant information relating to the medical condition and how to respond to an allergic reaction as read in the Medical Plan
- Ensure the Medical Plan is available to all working with the student and staff have access to any prescribed medication.
- Review the student's Medical Plan after a reaction has occurred.

School Guidelines for students/classes where there is an identified person at risk of an allergic reaction:

- There is a "No Share Food" policy in the relevant classroom.
- A consistent and thorough standard of handwashing and surface sanitising at food break times and in areas where food is consumed.
- Encouragement of self-responsibility and learned avoidance strategies amongst students suffering allergies
- When food treats are given in class or when there is a celebration, the student will be rewarded with treats provided by parents/guardians.
- Close liaison with parents/guardians of students who have allergies
- Awareness around times of highest risk -When routine is altered
 - School trips
 - Staff changes
 - activities involving food

Role of parent/guardian:

- Notify the school on enrolment or on diagnosis of allergy.
- Notify the school if anything changes in the condition or treatment.
- Provide written medical documentation, instructions and medications as directed by a doctor on the Medical Plan Form, to inform staff.
- Provide properly labelled medications and replace when out of date.
- Supply alternative food for treats /occasions when given notice by the school.
- Support the school in implementing the policy.
- Review procedure with the school following a reaction.

- Educate their child in the management of his/her allergy including
 - Safe and unsafe foods to eat
 - Strategies for avoiding exposure to unsafe foods
 - Symptoms of an allergic reaction
 - How and when to tell an adult they may be having an allergic reaction or allergy related problem.
 - How to read food labels

Role of the student:

- Do not trade food with others - no share policy.
- Do not eat anything with unknown ingredients.
- Notify an adult immediately if they eat something they believe may have contained the food to which they are allergic.
- Notify an adult immediately if they feel they are beginning to get an allergic reaction.

Procedure during a severe allergic reaction:

Incidents of severe allergic reactions will be responded to according to each student's individual Medical Plan. If a student with an unknown allergy has a severe reaction, the school will call emergency services and follow the directions given.

Raising student and parent/guardian awareness:

It is important to work with the whole school community to better understand how to provide a safe and supportive environment for all students, including a student with severe allergies.

Peer support and understanding is important for the student at risk of anaphylaxis. The following key messages should be given to students in an age appropriate manner;

- Take allergic reactions seriously.
- Do not share food with peers.
- Common symptoms of an allergic reaction
- Importance of washing hands before and after eating
- Know the foods your friend is allergic to
- Get help if someone is ill

Parents will be made aware of this policy on enrolment and it will be available to view on the school website when ratified by the BoM.

Following an allergic reaction:

- The student's anapen/epipen will be replaced by parents/guardians.
- School and parents/guardians will review the medical plan

The class teacher will pass on information on the student's medical condition and any equipment or medication to the teacher who will have the student the following school year at the handover meeting in June.

Success Criteria:

- All stakeholders adhere strictly to the policy
- Any allergic reactions are dealt with in accordance with the individual student's Medical Plan

Implementation / Ratification and Review:

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on
It will be reviewed by the Board in 2025.

Signed : _____

Chairman Board of Management

Signed : _____

Principal

Date : _____