



Urquhart Park Primary School

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

Rationale:

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction when a person is exposed to an allergen. The most common allergens in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts such as cashews, cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, insect stings and medication. Symptoms include noisy or difficult breathing including wheezing or persistent coughing, swelling of the tongue, swelling or tightness of the throat, difficulty talking, loss of consciousness and pallor and floppiness in young children.

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 auto-injector *device* to the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

Aims:

To provide a safe and healthy school environment that takes into consideration the needs of all students, including those who may be at risk of an anaphylactic reaction. In line with DET expectations, Urquhart Park Primary School will fully comply with Ministerial Order 706.

Implementation:

Anaphylaxis is best prevented by knowing and avoiding the allergens.

Our school will manage anaphylaxis by:-

- Ensuring First Aid Coordinators attend the appropriate course, as set out by DET, at least every 3 years.
- All staff will attend anaphylaxis briefings twice yearly, conducted by the First Aid Coordinators. These briefings will include the administering of an adrenaline auto-injector such as an EpiPen or an Anapen.
- Informing staff of students at risk of an anaphylactic attack and the identified allergen
- Informing the community about anaphylaxis via the newsletter
- Informing students about allergies, including anaphylaxis causes and first aid, as part of the prep-6 curriculum.
- Not allowing food sharing, and restricting food to that approved by parents
- Keeping the lawns well mown, ensuring children always wear shoes, and not allowing drink cans at school.
- Identifying those students at risk of anaphylaxis and knowing their allergens

References: ASCIA - <http://www.allergy.org.au/content/view/10/3/> St Johns Ambulance Victoria – 8588 8391

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

Ministerial Order 706

- Requiring parents to provide an ASCIA emergency management plan developed by a health professional and an auto-injector if necessary, both of which will be maintained in the first aid room for reference as required. First aid staff will contact parents if the Use-By date of the injector is close to expiration.
- All ASCIA Anaphylaxis Action Response Posters will be displayed in the first aid room as appropriate.
- We will maintain open communication with parents.
- The school will discourage, as far as is practicable, nut products at school. This is in an effort to minimise risks to those identified children at risk of anaphylaxis.
- The school will reinforce the rules about not sharing food, and not eating foods that parents have consented to.
- For celebrations in the classroom, e.g. special treat days, birthdays, the classroom teacher is responsible for reminding parents of our policy and ensuring shared food complies with this.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in.... 2015