



Allergy Aware Policy

CONTEXT

An allergic reaction occurs when the immune system reacts to substances in the environment. It is not possible to guarantee that the environment will be completely free of potential hazards. However, compliance to reasonable guidelines will minimise the potential risks.

PURPOSE

- To raise the awareness of anaphylactic conditions for all members of the school community.
- To provide a safe school environment for all members of the school community.

MANAGEMENT

Planning for Safety

- Every child/student with allergies has a care plan
- Every child/student with anaphylaxis has an agreed worksite support plan. This reflects the ages and stages of development of the child and includes:
 - informing all relevant staff including TRTs and instrumental teachers
 - camps and excursions
 - special programs such as swimming, sports day and visiting presenters/programs
 - evacuation and invacuation
 - class activities such as craft where exposure to egg and milk cartons, seeds, playdough and egg shells may occur
- Parents are responsible for providing the care plan and any medication, ensuring that the medication has a current expiry date
- Care and support planning is reviewed routinely
- Staff and students understand and apply allergy aware practices
- All families in the school community are regularly informed about allergy aware policy and practice

Food Allergy

- Everyone is encouraged to wash their hands before and after eating
- Food is not given as a reward/treat
- Children do not share/swap food, unless under supervision (for example social events, as pre-arranged and agreed with the family)
- Food and nutrition education incorporates education about food allergy and any practical activities are planned with an assumption that some participants have a food-related allergy
- Food should not be supplied to children with anaphylaxis or allergies unless pre-arranged and agreed with the family. It is assumed any product might have traces of nut or other food allergy ingredients unless confirmed otherwise
- Food preparation follows standard precautions to avoid cross contamination
- Planning camps and excursions takes into account food supply services, including discussing the full menu and product details with families
- Beware of using food as a fundraising exercise

First Aid

- Staff are trained in first aid including anaphylaxis first aid
- First aid protocols ensure safe secure storage and immediate access to a child's Epi-Pen and other first aid equipment
- First aid protocols encourage self-management while acknowledging that staff are responsible for managing first aid emergencies



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RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents

- Are requested where possible NOT to send food to school that contain nuts, especially peanuts. This includes products such as peanut paste, 'Nutella', most nuts, peanut cooking oil and other foods that may contain nuts.
- Will be informed of this policy at the commencement of each new school year and at enrolment.

Staff

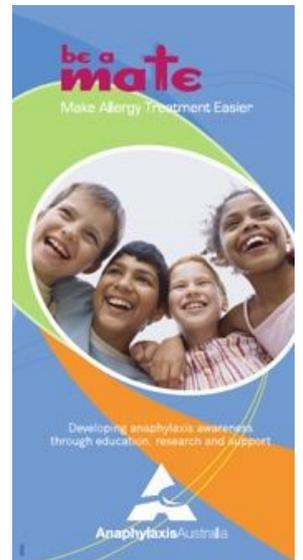
- Will be made aware of students who have anaphylactic responses, including nut allergy.
- Will supervise students during lunch eating time and will be vigilant in regard to this policy.
- Will participate in training from St John or Red Cross to understand procedures related to Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions).

Students

- Are encouraged to wash hands before and after eating.
- Who bring food containing nuts, or nut products, are required to eat that food away from other students and to wash their hands before going to play.
- Are not to share food

Be a MATE: **M**ake **A**llergy **T**reatment **E**asier

- Take food allergies seriously
- Know what your friends are allergic to
- Don't share your food/drink with friends who have food allergies
- Don't pressure your friends to eat/drink something
- Use you "bullying no way" strategies if you see anyone being bullied, including someone being bullied about their **allergies**



PROMOTION

This policy will be promoted by:

- Information via the school newsletter, school website, School Stream and Acquaintance Nights
- New families to the school community being informed via information in their enrolment package
- Governing Council being informed and giving approval and support to this policy.
- Staff being informed via teachers, signs and through the newsletter.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed by staff and Governing Council every two years.

The school acknowledges that due to current food processing practices, it is impractical to eliminate nuts and nut products entirely from an environment where there is food. The emphasis is therefore on raising awareness and adopting the reasonable procedures termed as 'Nut Awareness'.

REFERENCES

Health support planning: Anaphylaxis and severe allergies in education and care. August 2018.

Examples of risk minimisation strategies for schools, pre-schools and childcare services, Australian Society of clinical immunology and allergy (ASCIA), March 2015.

Allergy (and anaphylaxis) aware checklist for education and children's services, Allergy Australia Inc. Nov 2007