



St Christopher's Primary School

5 Doon Avenue, Glen Waverley Vic 3150 P (03) 9803 0011 F (03) 9803 0504

E principal@scsyndal.catholic.edu.au W www.scsyndal.catholic.edu.au

ABN: 50 860 926 569

Anaphylaxis Policy

Rationale

The key to prevention of allergy and 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. St. Christopher's School will comply with Ministerial order 706 and the associated guidelines published and amended by the Department from time to time.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is:

- To provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of allergy and anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the student's schooling.
- To raise awareness about allergy and anaphylaxis and the school's allergy and anaphylaxis management policy in the school community.
- To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of allergy anaphylaxis in assessing risks,
- To develop 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.

Definitions

An allergic reaction is an abnormal immunological response following exposure to an allergen. The most common allergens in school aged children include peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashew, almond, hazelnut, macadamia, pine nut), cow's milk, fish, shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, insect stings (ants, bees and wasps) and medication.

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening and must be treated as a medical emergency. It often involves more than one body system (e.g., skin, respiratory, gastro-intestinal and cardiovascular). A severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis usually occurs within 20 minutes to 2 hours of exposure to the trigger and can rapidly become life threatening.



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Implementation

Adrenaline given through an EpiPen® autoinjector to the muscle of the outer mid thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis. Staff must follow emergency procedures stated in Individual Management Plans.

Individual Management Plan

The principal in consultation with the at risk student's parents, will discuss the individual management plan as set by the medical practitioner.

The principal will ensure 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 individual anaphylaxis management plan will set out the following:

- Information about the diagnosis, including the type of allergy or allergies the student has (based on a diagnosis from a medical practitioner).
- Strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of school staff, for in-school and out of school settings including camps and excursions.
- The name of the person/s responsible for implementing the strategies.
- Information on where the student's medication will be stored.
- The student's emergency contact details.
- An emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan), provided by the parent, that:-
 - a. sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction;
 - b. is signed by a medical practitioner who was treating the child on the date the practitioner signs the emergency procedures plan; and - includes an up to date photograph of the student. Note: The red and blue 'ASCIA Action Plan' is the most common form of emergency procedures plan that is provided by medical practitioners to parents when a child is diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis. An example can be downloaded from <https://allergy.org.au/hp/anaphylaxis/ascia-action-plan-for-anaphylaxis/>

The student's individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/ carers:

- annually, and as applicable,
- if the student's condition changes, or



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- immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school

It is the responsibility of the parent to:

- provide the emergency procedures plan (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 the school with a current adrenaline autoinjector for their child.

Communication Plan

The principal is responsible for developing a communication plan which 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. communicated to all staff at staff meetings.

Volunteers and casual relief staff of students at risk of anaphylaxis will be informed of students at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in their care by the principal, deputy principal or relevant classroom teacher.

All staff will be briefed once each semester by a staff member who has up to date anaphylaxis management training on:

- the school's anaphylaxis management policy
- the causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis
- the identities of students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis and where their medications are located
- how to use an adrenaline auto-injecting device
- the school's first aid and emergency response procedures
- storage and access to adrenaline auto-injecting devices

The school's anaphylaxis policy will be publically available on the school's website. Parents will be updated regarding anaphylaxis management via the school newsletter and emails through the online information sharing service – Caremonkey.

Staff Training and Emergency Response

Teachers and other school staff who conduct classes which students at risk of anaphylaxis attend, or give instruction to students at risk of anaphylaxis must have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.



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At St Christopher's the majority of staff undergo face to face training with an accredited Anaphylaxis Training Course that meets the requirements of Ministerial Order No. 706. (Course in First Aid Management of Anaphylaxis 22300VIC)

At other times while the student is under the care or supervision of the school, including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days, the principal must ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff present who have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.

The principal will identify the school staff to be trained based on a risk assessment. This would usually be the majority of our staff members and would occur once a year.

Training will be provided to these staff as soon as practicable after the student enrolls.

Wherever possible, training will take place before the student's first day at school. Where this is not possible, an interim plan will be developed in consultation with the parents.

The school's first aid procedures and student's emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

Prevention Strategies

The school will put in place the following in order to minimise the risk of anaphylactic reaction:

- inform community of need for school to manage risk of allergy and anaphylaxis
- discourage specific foods such as nuts, from being brought to school
- discourage specific food products (nuts) from being provided at fundraising events and supplied for student birthdays
- allergy information collected from parents and communicated to staff via list of students and their specific allergy
- written permission required from parents before any medication is administered to a student
- school procedure that students are not allowed to share food
- risk management planning of excursions to consider management of allergies and anaphylaxis
- excursions and school camps that involve the provision of food: communication between school, parents and service provider regarding management of students that have allergies or are anaphylactic



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Resources

[Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy \(ASCIA\)](http://www.allergy.org.au/) (<http://www.allergy.org.au/>)

[ASCIA Guidelines for prevention of food anaphylactic reactions in schools, preschools and childcare centres](http://www.allergy.org.au/pospapers/anaphylaxis.htm) (<http://www.allergy.org.au/pospapers/anaphylaxis.htm>)

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually and the Principal will be responsible for completing an annual Risk Management Checklist (www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/anaphylaxisschl.aspx).

Ratification

This policy was last ratified in June 2019