



# FALLS CREEK PRIMARY SCHOOL ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT POLICY

## Background

- 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 (eg. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication.
- Signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis include hives/rash, tingling in or around the mouth, abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhoea, facial swelling, cough or wheeze, difficulty breathing or swallowing, loss of consciousness or collapse, or cessation of breathing.
- 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 students while at school.
- Adrenaline given through an EpiPen® auto injector to the muscle of the outer mid thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

## Purpose:

- 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/carers 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:

- Falls Creek Primary School will manage anaphylaxis by:
  - ***Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans***  
The principal will ensure that 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. This plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls.

The individual management plan will include information about the type of allergy based on a diagnosis from a medical practitioner, strategies to minimise risk of exposure to allergens, the name of the person responsible for implementing the strategies, information on where the student's medication will be stored, the student's emergency contact details and an emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan), provided by the parent, signed by a medical practitioner who was treating the child on the date the practitioner signed the plan, and including an up to date photograph of the student.

The student's individual management plan will be reviewed annually, if the student's condition changes, or 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 of any change in their child's medical condition and if relevant provide an updated ASCIS Action Plan, and to provide an up to date photo for the emergency procedures plan.

Templates of an individual anaphylaxis management plan and emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) can be found at:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/health/anaphylaxischools.htm>

○ ***Communication plan***

The principal will be responsible for ensuring that information is provided to all staff, students and parents about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy.

The principal will inform the school community about anaphylaxis via the school newsletter and the anaphylaxis management policy will be uploaded to the school website.

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 a risk of anaphylaxis and where their medication is located, how to use an auto adrenaline injecting device, and the school's first aid and emergency response procedures.

The principal will inform volunteers and casual relief staff about the students at risk and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in their care.

The emergency procedures plans (ASCIA Action Plans) for students at risk of anaphylaxis will be displayed on the staff notice board.

○ ***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.

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 are sufficient staff present who have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.

The principal will identify the school staff to be trained in anaphylaxis management. Training will be provided to these staff as soon as practicable after the student enrolls.

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

A student's EpiPen® will be labelled with the student's name and stored in the school

