

## Safety Policy

St Pius School strives to Live, Love and Learn together in a responsible manner to ensure a safe, secure and positive learning environment.

## Rationale

St Pius Primary School is committed to providing, as far as is practicable, a safe, supportive environment, in which students at risk of anaphylaxis, can participate equally in all aspects of their schooling.

The school is also committed to the provision of competent and prompt emergency care, to ensure the health and optimum outcome of all students who may experience an anaphylactic reaction, while under the care of the school. The key prevention of anaphylaxis in school is the knowledge of students who are at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens) and prevention of exposure to these allergens.

## What is Anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction, that is potentially life threatening. Although allergic reactions are common among children, severe reactions are uncommon and death is rare. However, deaths have occurred and anaphylaxis must be treated as a medical emergency at all times.

The most common allergens in school age children are nuts (all varieties), eggs, cow's milk, fish and shell fish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and some medication. Anaphylaxis is treated with adrenaline, which is given as an injection, known as an EPIPEN. This pen is injected in to the muscle of the outer mid-thigh.

## Aims

To raise awareness of anaphylaxis and the school's Anaphylaxis Management Policy within the school community

To ensure all staff have adequate knowledge of anaphylaxis, allergens (triggers) and the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction. To engage with parents/guardians of students who are at risk of anaphylaxis, in assessing risks and developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for each individual student.

## Statement Guidelines:

- To provide appropriate care to all students who may be experiencing an anaphylactic reaction
- To proactively seek information about severe allergies from parents / guardians
- To ensure staff know the identity of students who are at risk of anaphylaxis
- To ensure staff are aware of the location of Epipens
- To provide staff with training in how to recognise and respond to an anaphylactic reaction, including the administration of an Epipen. This is to be done annually and be provided to all new staff.
- Provide information to staff, students and parents / guardians, to raise awareness of severe allergies and the school's policy

## Our commitment

### St Pius Primary school will:

- display all students' ASCIA (Australian Society of Clinical immunology and Allergy Inc.) Action Plans for anaphylaxis, in the Front Office. All Epipens are clearly labelled and stored centrally in the pigeon holes in the School Front Office.
- display a copy of individual student's ASCIA (Australian Society of Clinical immunology and Allergy Inc.) Action Plan in their classroom.
- compile a list of students who are anaphylactic and display their photos in the staffroom, on medi-bags for playground duty and where necessary, throughout the school.
- will be check Epipens at the beginning of each year and at the beginning of third term for expiration date and cloudiness of the fluid.
- purchase 2 Epipens annually, that will be taken on playground duty in the medi-bags. Teachers will take walkie-talkies on playground duty, to allow for emergency communication.
- provide training to all staff annually in how to recognise and respond to an anaphylactic reaction, understand the causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis and where Epipens are located.
- call an ambulance for all anaphylaxis episodes.
- keep an up to date register of students at risk of anaphylaxis and their emergency contact details. This is based on the provision that parents / guardians provide up to date information
- work with staff to develop strategies to raise awareness about allergies and prevention strategies
- encourage ongoing communication between parents / guardians, and the school staff about the current status of the students' allergies, the school policies and their implementation. The policy will be made available to all families so that they are informed of the role of the school, and the expectations of families
- ensure that when a student is off campus for an excursion, camp or sporting event, the Teacher-in-Charge will sign the students Epipen out of the Office, along with their ASCIA Action / Care Plan, and then sign it back into the Office on their return. A school Epipen will also be taken in the first aid kit as a back up precaution.
- facilitate appropriate storage for students who require an additional Epipen for afterschool activities.

## Our commitment con't

- hold discussions with all classes about severe allergies / anaphylaxis and the importance of not sharing food.
- raise awareness in the school community through newsletters and notices that there are children in the school who suffer from anaphylactic reactions. A request will be made that no nuts products are brought to school.
- encourage students with anaphylaxis wear white banded hat at eating time for easy identification by staff. Students will be seated and supervised at first and second break while they are eating.
- request that food for a child with a severe allergy / anaphylaxis should only be supplied by that child's parent.

## Our expectations

### Parents/carers will:

- provide an Action / Care Plan that is developed and signed by the child's practitioner or allergy specialist, and displays a current photo, they are to be updated annually.

#### **ASCIA Action / Care Plan requirements:**

Childs full name, date of birth and grade

Current photo

Known allergies

Parents / Carers contact details, primarily emergency numbers

Doctors name, signature and date

Any medication required and / or type of EpiPen

- provide an EpiPen within its expiry date and ensure EpiPens are replaced prior to reaching its expiration date.
- ensure students with anaphylaxis are wear a white band on hat for ease of identification on playground.
- provide up to date emergency contact details
- sign out their child's EpiPen at the end of the school year, and must also sign it back in on return in the next academic year.
- ensure their children are encouraged to become independent and to be aware of the policy of not sharing food and the importance of caring for their medication.

## Nuts and Nut Products at School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We currently have a number of students at our school who are anaphylactic. Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. Certain foods and insect stings are the most common causes of anaphylaxis.

We Have been working with the Catholic Education's Work Place Health and Safety department and the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology <http://www.allergy.org.au/> to ensure that we have the most current research to allow us to make an informed decision as to how we can most effectively reduce the risk to affected students.

As a result we have decided that, to ensure the safety of all children, we request that students ***do not bring peanuts, tree nuts (such as walnuts, almonds, pecans, pistachios, pine nuts and cashews) or any foods that contain nuts as an ingredient, to school.***

*However*, these guidelines **do not** apply to those foods with labels that state '***may contain traces of nuts***'. Students are allowed to bring foods that state 'may contain traces of nuts'.

As part of the school's guidelines students are not allowed to share their food with other children. It is important that parents are aware of these guidelines when bringing in birthday cakes and sweets to celebrate a child's birthday.

We thank parents for their support and understanding.