



# AA

# ALLERGY AWARENESS POLICY

PROSPECT PRIMARY SCHOOL

CREATED NOVEMBER 2016

REVIEWED JUNE 2018

REVIEW JUNE 2019

## CONTEXT/BELIEF STATEMENT

Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a systemic allergic reaction that can be fatal within minutes: either through swelling that shuts off airways or through a dramatic drop in blood pressure caused by eating or coming in contact with foods containing nuts and eggs. While there are other triggers the most common is to tree nuts (including peanuts, almonds, pistachio).

Department for Education requires schools to promote and construct learning environments that are safe and supportive as well as cater for the needs of students and staff who have anaphylactic conditions including nut and egg allergies. This means that exposure at school may constitute a risk to their health and wellbeing. 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. The school acknowledges that due to food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate eggs, nuts or nut products entirely from an environment where there is food. The school aims to raise the awareness of anaphylactic conditions for all members of the school community.

Our intention is to be a Nut Aware school.

### Management

#### School Responsibilities

Students with anaphylactic reactions require:

- A standardised Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Action Plan which includes a photo of the student, his/her allergies, what action to take in the instance of a reaction occurring, and the name and contact details of the doctor who completed the plan. This information will be available for the class teacher, relief teacher's package, First Aid Room and Staff Room and yard duty bags.
- Support from the class teacher and other staff in implementing the Health Care Plan.
- Promotion of appropriate avoidance and management strategies through the e-newsletter and posters.
- Provision of additional information to classes with students of risk of anaphylaxis if requested by doctor.

#### Staff Responsibilities

Staff will:

- Support allergy awareness by reinforcing the Policy through classroom activities.
- Reinforce the Policy through reminders in class communications when they have students with egg, nut and other related anaphylactic reactions.
- Be confidently trained in the use of an Epi-pen, associated triggers and prevention strategies.
- Educate students about the hazards and risks associated for students with allergies.
- Reinforce and advise students not to share or trade their food and be vigilant when supervising the eating of recess and lunch foods.
- Encourage students to wash their hands after eating to avoid cross contamination.
- Front office staff will send out a reminder to parents prior to the expiry of their child's medication and medication agreement plan.



- Provide additional parent information if recommended by the student's doctor. This may include a letter of request for parents of that classroom not to pack certain foods where eggs or the relevant nut is the main ingredient. (It does not apply to "may contain traces of nuts.")
- Front office staff to notify class teacher if a student is receiving first aid following a break.
- Provide relevant information to camp sites in regards to student allergies and to ensure they are catered for adequately.

### Parent's Responsibilities

- Parents and caregivers are requested **NOT** to send food to school that contains nuts. This includes peanut paste, Nutella, all nuts and cooking oil containing peanut oil, as well as foods containing nuts such as pesto, and some chocolate. This applies to items with nuts as a listed ingredient, but does not apply to those foods labelled 'may contain traces of nuts'.
- Parents will be informed of this policy at the commencement of each new school year and at enrolment.
- Will provide a medication agreement plan and medication (e.g. EpiPen) if their child has been diagnosed with an allergy. These are to be kept up-to-date by the parent. Parents will also teach and encourage the child to self-manage.

### Student's Responsibilities

Students will:

- Receive age appropriate education and food safety and the seriousness and potential life threatening nature of allergies in the classroom environment.
- Not share or trade food.
- Be aware of students in the class who have any allergy, including nut and egg, and be sensitive to their needs.
- Be encouraged to inform the classroom or duty teachers if they bring food containing ingredients that students are allergic to, and will eat that food away from other students and wash their hands after eating.



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Education