



# SANDRINGHAM EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Anaphylaxis Policy

### **Rationale:**

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common allergens triggering anaphylaxis in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication.

The key to reducing the risk 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 student while at school.

Epinephrine (synthetic Adrenaline) given through an EpiPen® autoinjector to the muscle of the outer mid thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

### **Aims:**

- 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:**

- In order to help provide a safe and supportive environment for students at risk of nut triggered anaphylaxis, the school implements a "nut free" policy requesting that nuts and food containing nuts are not to be brought into the school either via children's lunches or other occasions when food is supplied at school.
- Parents are to be advised of the nut free policy at the time of their child's enrolment and via reminders through the school newsletter during the year.
- Other identified common allergens with anaphylactic risk are not prohibited from the school, but staff are briefed about the triggers for students in their care.
- 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.
- 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:
  - sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction;
  - 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.
- 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
  - 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.
  - Supply an EpiPen which is current and replaced when necessary.

### **Communication Plan:**

- The principal will be responsible for ensuring that a communication plan is developed to provide information to all staff, students and parents about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy.
- The communication plan 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.
- Volunteers and casual relief staff of students at risk of anaphylaxis will be informed about their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in their care by the class teacher, office staff, team-level co-ordinator or through information provided for the Casual Replacement Teachers in the Class Information File. Each classroom has a list and photo of children at risk of anaphylaxis.

### **Staff Training and Emergency Response:**

- All staff at SEPS (including office staff) have up to date anaphylaxis training which includes yearly refresher courses. A register of all staff training (including new staff as they join the school) will be kept by the Principal.
- The school's first aid procedures and students emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

**This policy was ratified by School Council – March 2018**