

ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT

BRUNSWICK EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY

Rationale:

- Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening condition.
- Anaphylaxis is an acute allergic reaction to certain food items and insect stings. The condition develops in approximately 1-2% of the population. The most common allergens are nuts, eggs, cow's milk and bee or other insect stings, and some medications.

Aims:

- To provide a safe and healthy school environment that takes into consideration the needs of all students, including those who may suffer from anaphylaxis.

Implementation:

- Anaphylaxis is best prevented by knowing and avoiding the allergens.
- Our school will manage anaphylaxis by:-
 - Providing regular professional development for all staff to enable them to recognise and address the following symptoms: 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
 - Photos of anaphylactic students and their allergens will be displayed and management plans will be brought to the attention of all staff
 - Photos of anaphylactic students will be displayed in all classrooms, the office, in Casual Relief Teacher information folders, Yard Duty folders and Out of School Hours Care Room.
 - Informing the community about anaphylaxis via the newsletter
 - Not allowing food sharing, and restricting food to that approved by parents
 - Keeping the lawns well mown and ensuring children always wear shoes.
 - Drink cans will not be permitted at school as they can attract bees and wasps.
 - Requiring parents to provide an emergency management plan developed by a health professional and an EpiPen as required, both of which will be maintained in a secure location accessible only to staff.
 - Audit of enrolment forms to identify students at risk.
 - Ensuring swimming /excursion/visiting performance checklists include a section on anaphylaxis students attending so that EpiPens for them students are taken with the child, even when regular teacher in not attending.
- The school will not ban certain types of foods that put children at risk (eg: nuts) as it is not practicable to do so, and is not a strategy recommended by the Department of Education or the Royal Children's Hospital. However, the school will request that parents do not send foods that are likely to cause an anaphylactic reaction.
- The food service provider will eliminate all foods that are likely to cause a reaction from all menus.
- The school will reinforce the rules about not sharing and not eating foods provided from home unless it is a specially approved occasion e.g. class party

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review

This policy was last ratified by School Council on the 23rd June 2008