

Upper Swan Primary School Allergy Awareness Policy



Key principles

The Government of Western Australia and all education sectors are committed to:

- providing, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of their schooling;
- raising awareness about allergies and anaphylaxis in the school community;
- actively involving the parents/guardians of each student at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation and management strategies for the student;
- ensuring that an adequate number of staff members have an understanding of the causes, signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and of their role in the school's emergency response procedures

7 Steps to 'allergy awareness' in schools



Understanding roles and responsibilities

Parents/guardians:

- Inform the principal, either at enrolment or diagnosis, of their child's allergies and whether their child has been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis
- Meet with the school staff to develop their child's Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan. It should include an ASCIA Action Plan completed by their child's medical practitioner.
- Inform school staff of all other relevant information and concerns relating to the health of their child. Provide current adrenaline auto injector and any other medications to the school.
- Alert staff to the additional risks associated with non-routine events and assist in planning and preparation for the student prior to these e.g. School camps.
- For children with food allergy: supply alternative food options for their child when needed and educate their child about only eating food provided from home. It is important to reinforce that their child should not share food with other students.
- Inform staff of any changes to their child's emergency contact details. Participate in annual reviews of their child's Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan.
- Provide the principal with an immediate update if there is a change to their child's condition.

Administration:

- Actively seek information to identify a student with severe life threatening allergies at enrolment.
- Parents/guardians meet with administration to develop an Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan for the student.
- Ensure that an adequate number of staff are trained in how to recognise and respond to an anaphylactic reaction, including administering an adrenaline auto injector.

- Provide information to all staff so that they are aware of the student who is at risk of anaphylaxis.
- Ensure that there are procedures in place for informing casual/relief teachers of the student at risk of anaphylaxis.
- Encourage ongoing communication between parents/guardians and staff about the current status of the student's allergies, the school's procedures and their implementation.
- Review the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan annually, after a severe allergic reaction or if the student's circumstances change.
- Keeping an up-to-date register of students at risk of anaphylaxis.

Staff:

- Know the identity of the student in their care who is at risk of anaphylaxis.
- Place a laminated sign on your door and in your room stating **“There is a student/students in this classroom with an allergy/allergies to....”** to inform anyone entering your classroom.
- Know the school's first aid emergency procedures and their role in relation to responding to an anaphylactic reaction.
- Keep a copy of the student's ASCIA Action Plan (or know where to find one quickly) and ensure it is followed in the event of an allergic reaction.
- Know the risk minimisation strategies in the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan.
- Plan ahead for special class activities or occasions such as excursions, in school activities. Work with parents/guardians to provide appropriate food for the student.
- **Avoid** the use of food treats in class or as rewards, as these may contain hidden allergens. Non-food rewards are recommended.
- Consider the risk of cross-contamination when preparing, handling and displaying food. Ensure that tables and surfaces are wiped down regularly and that students wash their hands before and after handling food.
- Raise student awareness about severe allergies and the importance of their role in fostering a school environment that is safe and supportive for their peers.

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Determine what allergies you need to manage

Every student diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis will have an Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan

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Assess the risk of allergen exposure

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Minimise the risk of allergen exposure

Given the number of foods students may be allergic, it is not possible to remove all allergens. It is better for school communities to become aware of the risks associated with anaphylaxis and to implement practical, age appropriate strategies to minimise exposure to known allergens.



Train staff and plan emergency response



Communicate with the school community

It is important to work with the whole school community to better understand how to provide a safe and supportive environment for all students, including the student with severe allergies.



Review and assess management strategies

Resources/useful links

- Department of Health Anaphylaxis website www.health.wa.gov.au/anaphylaxis
- Anaphylaxis Australia Inc. website www.allergyfacts.org.au
- Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy website www.allergy.org.au ASCIA Action Plans can be accessed from www.allergy.org.au/content/view/10/3/#r1
- Department of Education website www.det.wa.edu.au
- Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Forms can be accessed from www.det.wa.edu.au/inclusiveeducation/detcms/navigation/care-and-protection/promoting-student-health-care
- Policies can be accessed from <http://policies.det.wa.edu.au>
- Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia website www.ceo.wa.edu.au Policy statements can be accessed from http://web4.ceo.wa.edu.au/policy_statements.asp
- Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia website www.ais.wa.edu.au Member schools can log on to the AISWA member section of the website to access policies