



Last Reviewed: August 2014

Introduction

The Allergy Aware Policy is put into place because as a school we support families and students in responsible management of allergies. We will follow up all aspects of this policy to help protect students and adults who may suffer any type of severe allergy.

Rationale Statement

As we have a number of students in our school community who suffer allergic reactions to various allergens, our site is an 'Allergy Aware' environment.

Many children will outgrow their food allergies. However, reactions to nuts, seeds and seafood tend to be lifelong. (Allergy Capital 2003 Food Allergy – Overview).

The symptoms of allergies range from mild to life threatening – anaphylaxis.

What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. In the most severe cases, airborne particles containing the allergen can be enough to cause an anaphylactic reaction. Avoidance of the allergen is the key to preventing anaphylaxis. In the event of contact, EpiPen should be administered immediately and call 000.

Symptoms of anaphylaxis may include one or more of the following:

- Coughing
- Swelling of lip, face or body
- Noisy breathing or difficulty breathing
- Hoarse voice
- Difficulty swallowing
- Difficulty talking
- Vomiting

Symptoms may be present in any combination, with or without a rash.

Common foods that may cause severe reactions include nuts, eggs, bananas and shellfish.

Other allergens that may cause severe reactions include aerosol sprays, bees and insect bites.

How the 'Allergy Aware' Policy will affect you.

Families will be discouraged from sending in food items that contain nuts or traces of nuts.

Requests such as this for other food products will be made in response to the enrolment of students with other medically diagnosed allergies at our school.

Implementation

Parents / caregivers of a student with a known allergy

- are to provide the school with a Health Care Plan completed by the student's doctor.
- are expected to educate their child in the self-management of their allergy
- are expected to provide appropriate food for their child for shared lunch occasions.

Staff members will

- provide a copy of this policy to all new and existing families at Burra Community School
- be educated in the management of the student's allergy and particularly in First Aid requirements
- educate students in their care to support the student with the allergy

if a student brings food to school that may pose a risk to others, that child may be asked to sit separately

Evaluation:

This policy was last ratified by the Governing Council in September 2014 This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.	
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