

## Risk Minimisation Strategies

### Risk Minimisation Strategies

Mansfield Steiner School may also employ some or all of the following risk minimisation strategies that are designed to identify allergens, prevent exposure to them and enhance our response in case of an anaphylactic reaction.

Staff should determine which strategies are appropriate after consideration of factors such as the:

- age of the student at risk;
- facilities and activities available at the school;
- likelihood of that student's exposure to the relevant allergen/s whilst at school; and
- general school environment.

Staff should also consult the **Risk Minimisation Strategies** for schools included in the Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Victorian Schools.

### Key Definitions

Refer to **Anaphylactic Shock Management**.

### Principal Responsibilities

It is the School's policy that the Principal is to ensure that while the student is under the care of the School, including on excursions, camps, special event days such as sports carnivals, there is a sufficient number of School staff present who have successfully completed an Anaphylaxis Management Training Course.

### In the Classroom

In the classroom, teachers should:

- ensure they are aware of the identity of any students who are considered to be a high risk of having an anaphylactic reaction;
- be familiar with the student's ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis and have it readily accessible;
- be familiar with staff who are trained to deal with an anaphylactic reaction if they are not;
- liaise with parents/carers about food related activities ahead of time;
- use non-food treats where possible. If food treats are used in class, it is recommended that parents/carers provide a box of safe treats for the student at risk of anaphylaxis. Treat boxes should be clearly labelled. Treats for the other students in the class should be consistent with the School's **Anaphylactic Shock Management Policy**;
- never give food from outside sources to a student who is at risk of anaphylaxis;
- be aware of the possibility of hidden allergens in cooking, food technology, science and art classes (e.g. egg or milk cartons);
- consider whether to have a student's Adrenaline Autoinjector in class, depending on the speed or severity of previous anaphylactic reactions;
- have regular discussions with students about the importance of washing hands, eating their own food and not sharing food; and
- brief casual/relief teachers and provide them with a copy of the student's ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis.

### In the Canteen

In the canteen:

- in the event we use an external/contracted food service provider, the provider should be able to demonstrate satisfactory training in the area of anaphylaxis and its implications on food handling;
- with permission from parents/carers, canteen staff (including volunteers), should be briefed about students at risk of anaphylaxis, preventative strategies in place and the information in their ASCIA Action Plans for Anaphylaxis;
- with permission from parents/carers, the School may have the student's name, photo and the foods they are allergic to displayed in the canteen as a reminder to staff;
- food banning is not recommended (refer to our **Anaphylactic Shock Management** policy), however we may choose not to stock peanut and tree nut products (including nut spreads);
- products labelled 'may contain traces of peanuts/tree nuts' should not be served to the student known to be allergic to peanuts/tree nuts;
- staff should be aware of the potential for cross contamination when storing, preparing, handling or displaying food; and
- staff should ensure tables and surfaces are wiped clean regularly.

### In the school yard

In the school yard:

- a student with anaphylactic responses to insects should wear shoes at all times;
- outdoor bins should be kept covered;
- a student with anaphylactic responses should keep open drinks (e.g. drinks in cans) covered while outdoors;
- staff trained to provide an emergency response to anaphylaxis should be readily available during non class times (e.g. recess and lunch);
- the general use Adrenaline Autoinjector should be easily accessible; and
- staff on duty need to be able to communicate that there is an anaphylactic emergency without leaving the child experiencing the reaction unattended.

### During On-site Events (e.g. sporting events, in school activities, class parties)

During on-site events:

- class teachers should consult parents/carers in advance to either develop an alternative food menu or request the parents/carers to send a meal for the student;
- parents/carers of other students should be informed in advance about foods that may cause allergic reactions in students at risk of anaphylaxis as well as being informed of our **Anaphylactic Shock Management Policy**;

- party balloons should not be used if a student is allergic to latex;
- latex swimming caps and goggles should not be used by a student who is allergic to latex;
- staff must know where the Adrenaline Autoinjector is located and how to access it if required; and
- for sporting events, it may be appropriate to take the student's Adrenaline Autoinjector to the event. Ensure that the Adrenaline Autoinjector is stored in accordance with prescribed temperatures and conditions.

**During Off-site school settings – field trips, excursions**

During field trips and day excursions:

- the student's Adrenaline Auto-injector (two are recommended), Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan, ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis and means of contacting emergency assistance must be taken;
- one or more staff members who have been trained in the recognition of anaphylaxis and administration of the Adrenaline Autoinjector should accompany the student on field trips or excursions. All staff present during the field trip or excursion need to be aware if there is a student at risk of anaphylaxis;
- staff should develop an emergency procedure that sets out clear roles and responsibilities in the event of an anaphylactic reaction;
- parents/carers should be consulted in advance to discuss issues that may arise, to develop an alternative food menu or request the parent/carer to send a meal (if required);
- parents/carers may wish to accompany their child on field trips and/or excursions. This should be discussed with parents/carers as another strategy for supporting the student; and
- consider the potential exposure to allergens when consuming food on buses.

**During Off-site school settings – camps and remote settings**

During school camps and overnight excursions:

- when planning school camps and overnight excursions, risk management plans for students at risk of anaphylaxis should be developed in consultation with parents/carers and camp managers;
- camp site/accommodation providers and airlines should be advised in advance of any student at risk of anaphylactic shock;
- staff should liaise with parents/carers to develop alternative menus or allow students to bring their own meals;
- camp providers should avoid stocking peanut or tree nut products, including nut spreads. Products that 'may contain' traces of peanuts/tree nuts may be served, but not to the student who is known to be allergic to peanuts/tree nuts;
- use of other substances containing allergens (e.g. soaps, lotions or sunscreens containing nut oils) should be avoided;
- the student's Adrenaline Autoinjector (two are recommended), Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan, ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis and a mobile phone must be taken on camp;
- a team of staff who have been trained in the recognition of anaphylaxis and the administration of the Adrenaline Autoinjector should accompany the student on camp. However, all staff present need to be aware if there is a student at risk of anaphylaxis;
- staff should develop an emergency procedure that sets out clear roles and responsibilities in the event of an anaphylactic reaction;
- staff should be aware of what local emergency services are in the area and how to access them. Liaise with them before the camp;
- the Adrenaline Autoinjector should remain close to the student at risk of anaphylaxis and staff must be aware of its location at all times. It may be carried in the school's first aid kit, although the School can consider allowing students, particularly adolescents, to carry it on their person. Remember, staff still have a duty of care towards the student even if they carry their own Adrenaline Autoinjector;
- students with allergies to insect venoms should always wear closed shoes when outdoors;
- cooking and art and craft games should not involve the use of known allergens; and
- consider the potential exposure to allergens when consuming food on buses/airlines and in cabins.