



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

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1. Purpose

Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and always requires an emergency response. The school takes a proactive approach to dealing with this problem. In order to do this, it is essential that we have knowledge of all children in the school who are at risk of anaphylaxis together with the health care procedures in place to deal with an anaphylactic attack. Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency that requires a rapid response.

The school, parents/caregivers and the child need to work in consultation to develop prevention strategies and ensure that Emergency Response Plans are in place.

2. Definitions

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. It is sometimes called 'allergic shock' and occurs after exposure to an allergen (such as food, pollens, insect sting, medicine) to which the child is already extremely sensitive. Anaphylaxis affects the entire body.

The symptoms of an anaphylactic attack can range from:

Mild to Moderate:

- Swelling of lips, face, eyes
- Hives or welts
- Abdominal pain, vomiting

to Severe allergic reaction:

- Difficulty/noisy breathing
- Swelling of tongue
- Swelling/tightness in throat
- Difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice
- Wheeze or persistent cough
- Loss of consciousness and/or collapse
- Pale and floppy (young children)

3. Roles and Responsibilities

PARENT/CAREGIVERS RESPONSIBILITY

If your child is asthmatic or identified as potentially at risk of asthma, parents must:

- Be responsible for advising the school of the student's medical condition and for working with the school to ensure the school meets the student's health care needs.
- Inform the school of the diagnosis and its cause and immediately inform staff of any changes to this diagnosis.
- Provide the school with an up-to-date Anaphylaxis Action Plan (<http://www.allergyfacts.org.au/actionplans.html>) or a clear copy of the plan, that is signed by the child's medical practitioner and has a current photograph before the child commences the current school year. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to notify the school if there are any changes to these notification forms.
- Complete a Student Medication Request and Record Form.
- Assist their child in developing an awareness and possible triggers in their environment and take precautionary measures to prevent exposure to reactions.
- Provide a current Epipen for school and replace it before it expires or after it has been used.
- Ensure their children bring epipens on excursions, trips and sporting events.

SCHOOL/STAFF RESPONSIBILITY

- Be familiar with, and follow information contained in the child's Action Plan
- Keep a record of students with anaphylaxis and a copy of Student Action Plans in the school office and student's classroom.
- Attend school initiated training in how to recognise and respond to anaphylactic reactions including how to administer an epipen
- In the event of a reaction, carefully follow the procedures outlined in the child's Anaphylaxis Action Plan.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

- Students in K – PP will have their Epipen stored in a common area available to staff.
- Students in Year 1 to 6 will store their epipens in the staffroom (Centrally located and accessible).
- Students must ensure they bring their epipens on excursions and outings and any sporting events.
- Students with allergies need to develop an awareness of peers and possible triggers in their environment and take precautionary measures to prevent exposure to reactions.

4. Procedures

Recommended Storage of EpiPens

- Following consultation with parents and Anaphylaxis Australia, it is recommended that parents supply their child with a clearly labelled bag in which the EpiPen can be encased in.
- For excursions and outings, Anaphylaxis Australia recommend the “Freo Cooling Wallet”. These are available through Anaphylaxis Australia at www.allergyfacts.org.au.

Student Anaphylaxis Records

- All students with anaphylaxis should have a standard record or Action Plan completed by the student’s doctor.
- All anaphylactic Action Plans are to be displayed in the staffroom and students class.

ANAPHYLAXIS MEDICAL EMERGENCY PLAN

In the event of an attack, the First Aid Plan on the student’s Anaphylaxis Record should be followed.

If documentation is not available, the steps below should be taken immediately.

- Step 1** Give EpiPen or EpiPen Jr.
- Step 2** Call ambulance. Telephone 000.
- Step 3** Lay person flat and elevate legs. If breathing is difficult, allow to sit but do not stand.
- Step 4** Contact family / carer.
- Step 5** Further EpiPen doses may be given if no response after 5 minutes.

IF IN DOUBT, ALWAYS ADMINISTER EPIPEN OR EPIPEN JNR

Please Note

Sacred Heart Catholic School is an allergy aware school and although works closely with families relating to individual allergens, is unable to guarantee an environment free of triggers such as nuts or eggs.