



MacKillop College

Policy: Anaphylaxis

Introduction

As a Catholic College, MacKillop is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for students who have, or may develop, severe life-threatening allergies. Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life-threatening. The most common allergens in school-aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication. Adrenaline given through an Adrenaline Autoinjector to the muscle of the outer mid thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of those students who have been diagnosed at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens), and prevention of exposure to these triggers. Partnerships between schools and parents/guardians are important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from the student while at school. In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, the College's first aid and Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology (ASCIA) Action Plan and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan must be followed.

Principles

MacKillop College is committed to:

- planning for the safety and participation of the members of its community
- complying with the Victorian Government Ministerial Order 706
- regularly reviewing and updating policies and procedures in relation to anaphylaxis, first aid and emergency response
- managing risks in relation to anaphylaxis, first aid and emergency response.

Objectives

MacKillop College aims to:

- provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which a student at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of that student's schooling
- raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the Anaphylaxis Policy in the MacKillop community
- engage with parents/guardians of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation and management strategies for their son/daughter
- ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the College's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

ASCIA Action Plans

ASCIA Action plans are medical documents that can be completed by the treating doctor or medical practitioner. ASCIA Plans must be provided by the parent/guardian at least annually. This plan:

- sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction

- is signed by a medical practitioner who was treating the student on the date the practitioner signed the emergency procedures plan
- includes an up-to-date photograph of the student.

Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans

The First Aid Officer will ensure that an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan is developed for each student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis. This is to be done in consultation with the student's parents/guardians. The Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls at MacKillop College, preferably before their first day of school.

The Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will include:

- information about the diagnosis, including the type of allergy or allergies the student has (based on a diagnosis from a medical practitioner)
- strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of College staff, for in-school and out of school settings, for example Outdoor Education experiences, camps, excursions etc.
- the name of the person/s responsible for implementing the strategies
- the storage location of the student's medication
- the student's emergency contact details
- an ASCIA Action Plan.

In consultation with the student's parents/guardians the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be reviewed:

- annually, and as applicable
- if the student's condition changes
- immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at the College.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to:

- provide the ASCIA Action Plan
- inform the College if their son/daughter's medical condition changes and, if relevant, provide an updated ASCIA Action Plan
- ensure that their son/daughter has an Adrenaline Autoinjector that is current (not expired) at all times.

Implementation

i) Principal Commitment

The Principal (within the scope of their authority) is responsible for ensuring that:

- the objectives of this policy are integrated into practice
- training in anaphylaxis management will be provided to staff
- all staff are briefed once each semester, by a staff member who has up-to-date anaphylaxis management training, on:
 - the College's Anaphylaxis Management Policy
 - the causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis

- the identities of students diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis and where their medication is located
- how to use an auto adrenaline injecting device
- the College's first aid and emergency response procedures
- teachers and other College staff who conduct classes in which students at risk of anaphylaxis attend, or give instruction to students at risk of anaphylaxis, have up-to-date training in an anaphylaxis management training course
- there are sufficient staff present who have up-to-date anaphylaxis management training while the student is under the care or supervision of the College, including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days
- the College's first aid procedures and student's ASCIA Action Plan will be followed when responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

ii) Staff Commitment

Staff are responsible for ensuring that:

- they comply with this Policy and all associated procedures and guidelines relating to anaphylaxis management
- they work cooperatively with those who administer this policy.

This policy works in conjunction with the following policies, procedures, provisions and guidelines:

- all MacKillop College Policies and any procedures pertaining to first aid, excursions and emergency response
- Victorian Government Ministerial Order 706
- ASCIA Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Victorian Schools
- ASCIA Risk Minimisation strategies for schools Template

Rory Kennedy
(Principal)

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