

Prince of Peace Lutheran College Allergy Management Policy and Procedures

Rationale:

Within the general community, there is an increasing trend for children to have severe and often life threatening reactions, otherwise known as anaphylaxis or anaphylactic shock, to a number of allergens. The most common of these tend to involve foods containing peanuts, nuts, eggs, dairy products or seafood. However, whilst these reactions have often resulted from ingestion of the food, there are more children now who can be affected by touching something that has had traces of the allergen left on it, or even simply by the smell of the food. Overwhelmingly, the latter types are most often triggered by peanuts and other nuts. Similarly, our college is seeing an increasing number of students requiring that Epi-pens, a supply of epinephrine (adrenaline), be kept close at hand at all times in case an anaphylactic reaction occurs. As a college community, we are concerned about the wellbeing and safety of all of our students and from time to time need to adjust our procedures to ensure that no student is placed at unnecessary risk. Therefore, the following procedures are to be viewed as a minimum requirement at Prince of Peace Lutheran College.

Procedures:

In the case where an anaphylactic reaction to an allergy is considered possible, the following procedures are to be undertaken by:-

The Parents of the Student

- Keep the college informed of any risks and necessary procedures (including a response action plan), in writing, to ensure the well-being of the student, both pre-reaction and post-reaction.
- Ensure that a suitable number of Epi-pens are provided and that they are all within their use-by date.
- Provide any additional information or guidance, as necessary, when special events such as camps or excursions are being planned.
- Provide suitable alternatives for in-class celebrations such as birthdays.
- Ensure that, if using the service, Outside School Hours Care staff are aware of any risks and alternate arrangements that are necessary to ensure the safety of the student, including the supply of an Epi-pen.
- Ensure that the child is aware of the foods, products and situations that they are to avoid.

The Student

- Take age-appropriate / ability-appropriate responsibility for managing their allergy.

The College

- Ensure that the most up-to-date information provided by parents is circulated to staff and other necessary persons.
- Ensure that the child's teacher is provided with the response action plan provided by the parents, and is aware of any special arrangements that are required to assist with the safety of the student whilst in the college's care.

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- Place a photo of the student, along with the individual management plan, in a visible spot in the staff room, as well as into playground duty, relief teacher and time out room folders.
- Provide annual training for staff in the administering of Epi-pens and the causes and symptoms of anaphylaxis.
- Advise the rest of the college community, when necessary, of any changes that are required to ensure the safety and well-being of the student at risk.
- Ensure that staff, including relief staff, do not bring foods to school that may cause an anaphylactic reaction.

The Teachers

- Ensure that the student's individual action plan is understood and always within easy view and access.
- Ensure that the student's Epi-pen is always taken to where the child will be and is easily accessible at all times.
- Give due consideration to the student's needs when planning units of work, excursions, sporting events, camps, fund raisers and general class or college events.
- Ensure that other students are aware of the warning signs of an anaphylactic reaction and what to do in case of emergency, as well as their responsibilities not to risk or threaten initiation of a reaction.
- Liaise with the child's parents about alternative arrangements that may be necessary.
- Not use or supply allergens or foods that may contain allergens to students that may put a child at risk of anaphylaxis.
- Ensure that any relief teachers, volunteers, practicum students or outside caterers are fully aware of all special requirements.
- Be aware that as students get older, the risk can often increase rather than decrease as they begin to believe that it won't happen to them, ignore or don't recognise warning signs, forget their medication or believe that they can "risk it".

Outside School Hours Care

- Ensure that the action plan for at-risk students is understood by all staff and within easy access or view in case of emergency.
- Ensure that products, situations or procedures that can cause anaphylaxis are not used when a child at risk is attending the service.
- Avoid the use of nuts and peanuts, or any other ingredient as may be deemed necessary by the college, in foods served to students or prepared at the facility.

Parent / Auxiliary Groups

- Support the college's risk-management procedures in relation to anaphylaxis.
- Not provide products to the college community, whether during fund-raising or otherwise, that have been identified as potential causes of anaphylactic reactions and therefore deemed necessary by the college to avoid, without the appropriate labelling.

The Wider College Community

- Support the college in its risk-management procedures in relation to anaphylaxis.
- When requested, avoid sending foods that are known to cause an anaphylactic reaction to a student who will share or potentially share the same spaces.
- Not supply foods to students during excursions and college community events that contain nuts, peanuts or any other allergen as may be deemed necessary by the college to avoid.
- Ensure your child does not use another student's allergy as a means for bullying.