

Wantirna South Primary School

ALLERGIES POLICY

Rationale

Schools that have students at risk of allergic reactions (food, insect and medication allergies) are required to provide them with the safest environment possible. The Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Action Plan for Allergic Reactions plan are required for students who may have an allergy, however are not anaphylactic. This policy is provided for students with a mild to moderate allergic reaction.

Wantirna South Primary School has a duty of care to the health and safety of all children and abides by the Department Health guidelines for all students within the school environment.

Definition: an allergy occurs when a person's immune system reacts to substances in the environment that are harmless for most people. These substances are known as allergens and are found in foods, insects, some medicines, house dust mites, pets and pollen.

Expectations

Based on this rationale the expectations of this policy are to:

- To ensure the management of students individual needs with mild to moderate allergies.
- To ensure students with a mild or moderate allergy have an ASCIA Action Plan for Allergic Reactions plan.
- To ensure all staff are aware of the required action in the event of an allergic reaction.

Implementation:

Consistent with these expectations this policy shall be implemented according to the following guidelines:-

- Students with allergies who are not anaphylaxis have an ASCIA Action plan. Common allergens include:
Peanuts, tree nuts such as cashews, eggs, cows milk, wheat, soy, fish and shellfish, sesame, insect stings and bites, medication.
- Staff are aware of the mild reactions to allergens that include:
Hives or welts, swelling of the lips, face and eyes, and tingling of the mouth.
- Staff are aware of the signs that will trigger the allergic reaction to become an anaphylactic reaction:
Difficult breathing
Swelling of tongue
Swelling/tightness in throat
Difficulty talking or hoarse voice
Persistent cough or wheeze
Persistent dizziness or collapse
Pale, floppy or concerns with abdominal pain or vomiting.
- Parents are to provide the school with a colour copy of an ASCIA Action Plan for Allergic Reactions completed by their medical practitioner. The plan must include the following:
Outline of student's known mild to moderate allergies
Emergency procedures to be followed in the event of an allergic reaction
Preventions Strategies
Communication Plan,
Staff response.
- Staff are aware of all students with identified allergies, noting that the conditions such as allergic rhinitis (hay fever) or eczema do not require an ASCIA action plan.

- Staff are aware that students who have an ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis and a prescribed adrenaline autoinjector should NOT also have an ASCIA Action Plan for Allergic Reactions, they have an Anaphylaxis Plan.

Other Policies

Anaphylaxis Policy
Duty of Care Policy

Related Legislation:

Children's Services and Education Legalisation Amendment (Anaphylaxis Management) Act 2008.

Other Resources:

Allergies & Anaphylaxis Australia

ASCIA Guidelines – for prevention of anaphylaxis in schools, preschools and childcare.

Royal Children's Hospital: Department of Allergy and Immunology

This Policy has been developed in accordance with the Department of Education's Professional Development Advisory Guide.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/profdev/Pages/default.aspx>

Evaluation

This Policy will be reviewed as part of a five year cycle or as directed by School Council. Review date:

This Policy was ratified by School Council in May 2018.