Anaphylaxis Policy

**Preamble**

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening and therefore must be regarded as a **MEDICAL EMERGENCY requiring immediate and rapid response.**

**Aims**

The school aims to:

- Train all staff to recognise signs and symptoms as early as possible
- Train all staff to respond promptly and effectively in an emergency
- Implement prevention strategies to minimise risk as far as possible
- Raise community awareness of the most common causes of reactions

**Use of EpiPen®**

In cases where a student has an Anaphylactic reaction, the first response is to use the student’s EpiPen® injector.

An EpiPen® contains a measured dose of adrenaline in an auto-injector designed so that almost anybody can use it successfully. It is administered into the muscle of the outer mid-thigh.

If an EpiPen® is administered staff should always:

- **Immediately**: call an ambulance (000)
- **Then**: contact the student’s emergency contacts
- **Later**: contact Emergency Services Management (DEECD) on 9589 6266

Reassure the student experiencing the reaction as they will be anxious and frightened as a result of the reaction and the side-effects of adrenaline. Watch the student closely in case of a continued reaction.

In the rare situation where there is no marked improvement and severe symptoms are still present, a second injection of the same dosage may be administered after 5 to 10 minutes if available and an ambulance has not yet arrived.

**Effect on Students, Staff and Parents**

Another staff member should move other students away from the emergency situation and reassure them elsewhere.

This type of event can be traumatic for those involved, and post-incident counselling should be provided to students, staff and parents as necessary.

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Responsibilities

- School Principals have overall responsibilities for implementing strategies and processes for ensuring a safe and supportive environment for students at risk.

- All school staff are responsible for knowing which students are at risk, the causes, signs and symptoms, appropriate treatment methods, and day to day planning to minimise risk.

- Parents are responsible for providing all pertinent information, medication and alternate food as necessary.

- First Aid Coordinators / School Nurses are responsible for keeping an up to date register of students at risk, storing and checking EpiPens® and providing or arranging post incident support.

Note: Full details are contained in the “Anaphylaxis Guidelines” document referred to in “Related Documents”.

Related Documents

Intranet Processes
- Allergy Aware / Anaphylaxis Management Process

Intranet Supporting Documents
- Anaphylaxis Causes, Signs and Symptoms
- Anaphylaxis Management Plan
- Anaphylaxis Action Plan (ASCIA)
- Allergy Aware Parent Letter
- Allergy Aware Class Letter

External Links
- DEECD Anaphylaxis Guidelines - Managing Severe Allergies

Review Date
This Policy shall be reviewed by the Health and Wellbeing Committee by May 2010 or prior if deemed necessary.