

## Rationale

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. 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. With appropriate management, the impact of anaphylaxis can be minimised.

## Purpose

- *The Children's Services and Education Legislation (Anaphylaxis Management) Amendment Act 2008* states that by law all Victorian schools have an anaphylaxis management policy if they have a student enrolled who has been diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis.
- As from 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014, Bellbrae Primary School will adhere to and fully comply with the Anaphylaxis Management Policy as outlined in Ministerial Order 706, which repeals Ministerial Order 90.
- To provide a safe environment at Bellbrae Primary School for any students who might have allergies.

## Guidelines

1. Bellbrae Primary School will comply with Ministerial Order 706 and associated guidelines to ensure that students at risk of an anaphylaxis reaction have a management plan in place.
2. In the event of an anaphylaxis reaction, the school's First Aid and Emergency Management Response Procedures and the student's individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be followed.
3. To provide as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the student's schooling.
4. To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy in the school community.
5. To engage with parents/carers of all students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student.
6. To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

Bellbrae Primary School

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Policy ratified by  
School Council

October 2014

## Purpose

- *The Children's Services and Education Legislation (Anaphylaxis Management) Amendment Act 2008* states that by law all Victorian schools have an anaphylaxis management policy if they have a student enrolled who has been diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis.
- To comply with the Anaphylaxis Guidelines document as required by all Victorian Schools as outlined in Ministerial Order 706. (22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014)

## Implementation

### **Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans**

1. The school will ensure that an individual management plan is developed in consultation with the student's parents, for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis.
2. The individual anaphylaxis management plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls and where possible before their first day of school.
3. The plan should be easily accessible to all school staff.
4. The student's individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/carers:
  - annually, and as applicable
  - if the student's condition changes, or
  - immediately after a student has had an anaphylactic reaction at school
  - trained First Aid staff will regularly check the expiry date of the auto-adrenaline injecting device (Epipen)
5. It is the responsibility of the parent to:
  - provide the emergency procedures plan in consultation with their GP (*Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Action Plan*)
  - inform the school if their child's medical condition changes and provide an updated emergency procedures plan (*ASCIA Action Plan*)
  - provide an up to date photo for the emergency procedures plan (*ASCIA Action Plan*) when the plan is provided to the school and when it is reviewed.
6. Bellbrae Primary School's Harm Minimisation Strategies for Prevention of Anaphylaxis (*see Appendix 1*) will form the basis of the individual Implementation Plans.

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## **Communication Plan**

1. The Principal, in consultation with the Management Committee, will be responsible for ensuring that anaphylaxis information will be provided to all staff (including relief teachers/volunteers), students and parents as per the Anaphylaxis Resource Manual.
2. The information will include what steps will be taken to respond to an anaphylactic reaction by a student.
3. Staff training will follow D.E.E.C.D Guidelines (*see Appendix 2*) and will cover the following areas:
  - the school's anaphylaxis management policy
  - the causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis
  - the identities of students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis and where their medication is located
  - how to use an auto adrenaline injecting device (Epipen)
  - the school's first aid and emergency response procedures (Refer to Anaphylaxis Management DVD)
  - All staff members will be responsible for implementing strategies outlined in the Management and Communication plans.

## **Staff Training and Emergency Response**

1. Staff training will follow D.E.E.C.D Guidelines (*see Appendix 3*)
2. The school's first aid procedures and students emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

## **Evaluation**

- An effective anaphylaxis management program (student, parents, school) will ensure all students with an anaphylactic condition participate fully in the school program where possible.

## **Appendix 1: Bellbrae Primary School-Harm Minimisation Strategies for Prevention of Anaphylaxis**

The school recognises the importance of all staff responsible for the student/s at risk of anaphylaxis to undertake training that includes:

- preventative measures to minimise the risk of an anaphylactic reaction
- recognition of the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and

- be able to deliver emergency treatment, including administration of an EpiPen®

Staff and parents/guardians need to be made aware that it is not possible to achieve a completely allergen-free environment that is open to the general community. Staff should not have a false sense of security that an allergen has been eliminated from the environment.

The school has adopted a range of procedures and harm minimisation strategies to reduce the risk of a student having an anaphylactic reaction, as per DEECD guidelines. These include:

## STAFF

1. Staff knowing which students have anaphylaxis by use of clearly identifiable anaphylaxis plans for each student placed on the wall in classrooms and sickbay, as well as in the handover folder for CRT teachers. Relief staff are expected to familiarise themselves with these.
2. EpiPen and anaphylaxis plan kits are required to be taken on school excursions and sporting events. A mobile phone or other communication device must be available on each trip for emergency calls.
3. In the preparation of lunch orders and products sold, the school canteen will endeavour to source ingredients that do not contain nuts or nut products.
4. School staff are encouraged to avoid bringing nut products to school in keeping with the whole school strategy.
5. Education to the school staff about food safety and the seriousness and potential life-threatening nature of allergies.

## STUDENTS

1. All students are reminded that it is best not to share or swap food.
2. Students and families of children within a class where there is a serious food allergy should be informed of this at the beginning of the school year so they can assist to avoid bringing these substance to the school.
3. Students are encouraged to wash hands after eating.

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