

Policy M307**St Mary's Anaphylaxis Policy****Preamble**

Anaphylaxis (allergic shock) is a **severe and sudden** allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (such as a food or an insect bite). Reactions usually begin within minutes of exposure and can progress rapidly over a period of up to two hours or more. Anaphylaxis is potentially **life threatening** and always requires an **emergency response**. Anaphylactic Reactions are **preventable**.

Rationale

The St Mary's Catholic Primary School Anaphylaxis Policy aims to:

- Safely support, within the school environment, students with anaphylaxis and severe allergies.
- Develop and maintain a school action and implementation plan, when dealing with students who have critical life threatening allergies.
- Provide a position for the community on food management, hygiene, safe food handling, parent education, student education and tuckshop and classroom protocols to proactively and reactively support these students.
- Document the school community's agreed position on, and accepted procedures for dealing with students with Anaphylaxis.

Values

The Christian values of love, compassion, justice, dignity, self-discipline, tolerance and respect will be reflected in the provision of a safe and healthy environment for all children with allergic reactions.

Policy

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School we are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment. We seek to educate all students and staff regarding the life threatening effects of Anaphylaxis.

Implementation Issues

We will work in partnership with parents, medical staff and Diocesan OHSA (Occupational Health & Safety Advisor) authorities, to ensure safe, appropriate intervention for these students. The school will commit to responsible and achievable management practices in reducing any foreseeable risks associated with the support of students with anaphylaxis, within the school environment and within school associated activities.

- An enrolment application support process will be implemented for all Anaphylactic students and parents need to agree on this support process.

- The document, 'Anaphylaxis – Guidelines for School' will be used to guide the management of students who have been identified, by a medical practitioner, as being at risk of an anaphylactic reaction.
- The document "Guidelines for the administration of medication for Catholic School in the Rockhampton Diocese" will be referred to.
- Staff training in the recognition of signs and symptoms of anaphylactic shock and emergency response procedures, including the use of an EpiPen , will occur on an annual basis, or as required.
- School will conduct a range of anaphylaxis awareness and education activities throughout the year. These will include:
 - a) letters to parents
 - b) signs around the school, in sick bay and staff room
 - c) active teaching about food allergies, including elements of the M.A.T.E. Program (Make Allergy Treatment Easy)
- The identification of students at risk of an anaphylactic reaction will include :
 - a) photo identification and Vital Medical Information in the office, classroom (including specialist teachers' rooms and tuckshop.)
 - b) wearing of a yellow wrist band (Once we find it impractical to identify children.)
- Parents of students at risk of an anaphylactic reaction are responsible for informing the school of any changes to their Child's Individual Health Plan and supporting the implementation of strategies to ensure a safe learning environment exists.
- Yearly reviews of risk management documents must be undertaken to ensure optimal safety for anaphylactic students.
- Review expiry dates of EpiPens at the start of each year.
- The school will implement a 'Risk Minimisation' approach with regards to particular foods (eg. peanuts and tree nuts.)

**Reflection
Material**

- Anaphylalaxis Guidelines for Schools
- Glossary
- Guidelines for the administration of medication for Catholic School in the Rockhampton Diocese

Glossary

Adrenaline: a chemical naturally produced by the body when feeling anxious or stressed. It makes a human's heart beat faster, increases blood pressure and blood sugar levels.

Allergic Re-action: a reaction cause by **inhaling, swallowing** or **touching** a substance to which a person is sensitive. It can also be the result of injections, insect stings or bites.

Anaphylaxis: is a when a person suffers a severe allergic reaction, usually caused by swallowing a substance to which a person is highly allergic to, such as peanuts. Reactions can also result from insect bites/stings or medications (eg: penicillin) If untreated the anaphylactic shock may cause death. Someone who is suffering an Anaphylactic reaction may display one or some of the following indicators in the following areas of their body...

- skin – itching hives
- upper airways – swelling of the throat and vocal cords, which can lead to an obstruction in breathing
- nose - sneezing, blocking, watering runny nose
- lungs – wheezing and asthma
- circulatory system – a fall in blood pressure or collapse

Epipen: a pre loaded syringe that injects a single dose of adrenaline for the emergency treatment of anaphylactic shock.

Reaction: a chemical change within the body with visible and noticeable side effects