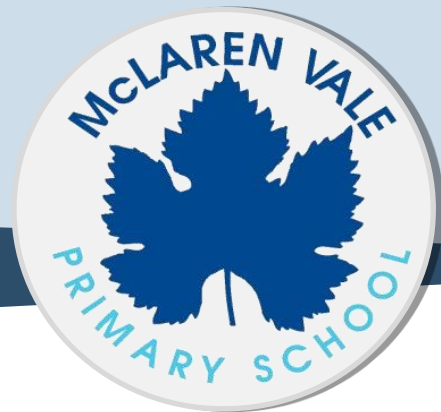


ALLERGY/ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE ENVIRONMENT POLICY



PURPOSE: McLaren Vale Primary School aims to provide a safe environment for all children and puts preventative measures in place to support students and staff who have anaphylaxis.

ANAPHYLAXIS AND ALLERGIES BACKGROUND: An allergic reaction occurs when the immune system reacts to substances in the environment that are harmless to most people. These are known as allergens and are found in foods, insects, pollen, mould, dust mites and some medications. Most allergic reactions are mild and don't involve the airways or circulation.

Anaphylaxis is a potentially life threatening, severe allergic reaction and should always be treated as a medical emergency. It involves rapid onset airway, breathing and/or circulatory problems and is usually, but not always, associated with skin symptoms and swelling. Not all people with allergies are at risk of anaphylaxis. There are many causative agents, the worst is often nuts, and a minute amount can be fatal. Other foods that can cause anaphylaxis include sesame, egg, milk and fish.

Anaphylaxis is preventable. Avoidance of specific triggers is by far the best option. Treatment is an injection of adrenaline and emergency transfer to hospital.

As a school, we implement an 'allergy/anaphylaxis aware environment' policy where we ask children and staff not to bring to school foods that contain nuts. In the instances where children are anaphylactic to foods other than nuts, the classroom teacher will provide this information to the classes affected with a preventative measure in place.

SCHOOL WIDE RISK MINIMISATION STRATEGIES:

McLaren Vale Primary School is an 'allergy aware environment'. The following strategies are in place:

- Regular communication with students, families and the wider school community to promote allergy awareness
- Staff awareness of all students and staff with a known risk of anaphylaxis and to be informed of the general triggers, management strategies and emergency response
- Raising awareness with all students and staff about the ways to minimise the risk for students and staff with a known risk of anaphylaxis
- Regular communication with families of children with a known risk of anaphylaxis to provide assurance that appropriate management, risk minimisation and emergency response strategies are in place
- Communication from parents/guardians of any changes to the child's allergy and risk factors to ensure staff have up to date information
- Where age appropriate, communication with the peers of the child identified to be at risk of anaphylaxis, to identify risk minimisation strategies that apply to them, such as handwashing before and after eating, and not sharing food
- Although it is impossible to guarantee removal of all, or a specific, allergen from the school environment, we are asking children (and classroom teachers) not to bring foods to school that contain nuts. This is to protect children with allergies to nut products.

Products that contain nuts include:

- o Peanut butter
- o Nutella
- o Some fruit and nut bars and muesli bars
- o Some biscuits
- o Chocolates and any other products that have nuts listed in the ingredients

Please note that this does not include foods that are labelled 'may contain traces of nuts'.

ALLERGY/ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE ENVIRONMENT POLICY



STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Staff cannot confiscate foods that contain identified allergens, but they can carefully monitor the child at risk. They can also monitor peers in close proximity who are eating, to ensure no sharing of food. Children should be reminded of allergy-aware strategies and the child at risk should be kept safe, ensuring that hand washing and wiping of tables occurs
- Children with food allergies should not be isolated from their peers and friends
- Individual risk minimisation strategies should be documented in the child's health support agreement or risk management / action plan
- Be considerate of mental health and anaphylaxis. High levels of anxiety may often be seen in children identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis, and their parents/guardians. Regular and ongoing communication with parents/guardians is important to reassure them of the strategies in place to manage the child's allergies. There should be an emphasis on the ability of MVPS to ensure a safe environment
- Be aware of the research around bullying and allergies. MVPS must identify and manage incidents of bullying of children at risk of allergic reactions (i.e. teasing, tricking the person at risk into eating a food, or threatening with a substance they are allergic to). All incidents of bullying will be dealt with in line with the MVPS anti-bullying policy. Any attempt to harm a child at risk of anaphylaxis must be treated as a serious and dangerous incident
- Reinforce the 'allergy/anaphylaxis aware environment' through the classroom health program
- Be trained in use of the EpiPen and associated triggers and prevention
- Encourage students to wash their hands after eating
- Educate students about the hazards associated with nut products
- Discuss strategies on how to reduce the risk to anaphylactic students
- At whole school events, students and parents will be reminded of the allergy/anaphylaxis aware environment' policy
- Regularly reinforce the policy through the school newsletter
- Increase their vigilance when supervising the eating of lunch foods.

CLASSES WITH AN ANAPHYLACTIC CHILD: All preventative measures will be put in place to ensure the class is nut free including:

- Children are not to share food
- All children must wash their hands after eating
- Additional parent information will be provided via class newsletters and at class information sessions.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES: Students with anaphylactic reactions require the following:

- A photo in roll book, TRT package, canteen, first aid room and staff room
- A health care plan with a documented plan for first aid response
- The name and contact details of doctor who signed the Health Care Plan
- Support the class teacher/s and other staff in implementing the Health Care Plan
- Reinforce appropriate avoidance and management strategies at assemblies and through the newsletter etc
- Ensure that the canteen and other school lunch providers complying with the allergy/anaphylaxis aware environment' policy
- Provide additional information to classes with anaphylactic children.

ALLERGY/ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE ENVIRONMENT POLICY



PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Parents of anaphylactic students will provide the school with a current Health Care Plan for school records and a current Epi-pen to be held in the Epi-pen cabinet.

Parents are asked to support the school's Nut Aware policy by:

- Being sensitive and supportive to the needs of anaphylactic students
- Providing children with healthy food options that do not contain nuts
- Encouraging your children to wash their hands after eating
- Considering our 'allergy/anaphylaxis aware environment' when sending food to school for any reason.

PROMOTING THE 'ALLERGY/ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE ENVIRONMENT' POLICY:

The policy will be promoted by:

- Parents and caregivers will be informed regularly via the newsletter
- New families to the school community will be informed via the enrolment information package, and reinforced by the class teacher
- Governing Council will be informed and approval and support sought
- Staff will be informed and provided with training opportunities
- Students will be informed via teachers, assemblies and the newsletter
- This school acknowledges that it is impractical to ask parents to not send food, which after the list of ingredients states "may contain traces of nuts". This nut aware policy applies to those ingredients specifically listed on the product label.

Policy reviewed and verified by Governing Council October 2020