

Allergy Awareness Policy

An allergic reaction occurs when the immune system reacts to substances in the environment which are harmless to most people. Anaphylaxis is a potentially life threatening, severe allergic reaction.

The school acknowledges that due to current food processing practices, it is impractical to eliminate all allergens entirely from an environment where there is food. It is assumed that any product may have traces of nut or other food allergy ingredients unless confirmed otherwise. The emphasis is therefore on raising awareness, adopting reasonable procedures and risk minimisation strategies, encouraging self-responsibility and considering students with severe allergies when planning activities.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Raise the awareness of severe allergies (anaphylaxis) within the whole Magill school community.
- Provide a safe learning environment for the whole Magill school community.
- Assist in the provision of support and best practice to students with severe allergies.

Responsibilities

Students

Will be encouraged to **Be a MATE: MAKE ALLERGY TREATMENT EASIER**

(Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia - <https://allergyfacts.org.au>)

- Always take food allergies seriously.
- Don't share food.
- Wash hands after eating.
- Ask a friend what they are allergic to.
- Get help immediately if a schoolmate has a reaction.

Parents/Caregivers

- Are requested NOT to send food products that contain certain ingredients if requested by the class teacher. This will mean that a student(s) in the class may have a severe allergic reaction to a food product, even just being in close proximity to it.
- Are to be aware that students are not permitted to provide food to share with the class due to Covid-19 and potential allergies.
- Must inform the school of their child's diagnosis and provide information on which allergens to avoid as soon as possible after they become aware of an allergy.
- Must provide a copy of the ASCIA Action Plan or health care plan and immediately inform the school of changes to their child's medical condition or management of, providing an

updated plan if necessary. ASCIA Action Plans should be reviewed when a child is reassessed by their treating health professional; if their medical condition changes; each time they obtain a new adrenaline autoinjector prescription (approx. every 12 to 18 months).

- Must provide an adrenaline autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen) and/or other prescribed medication, and ensure each has a pharmacy label to match the plan exactly clearly stating name, dose and administration instructions. Medications must be in date, clearly labelled and not expired.
- Must replace their child's adrenaline autoinjector and any other medication as needed, before the expiry date or when used.
- Are to assist in encouraging self-responsibility.

All Staff Members

- Will be made aware of students who have severe allergies (Medic alert posters, EDSAS and Sentral). (TRTs will have medical details available in the class folder).
- Will supervise eating at lunchtime.
- Will encourage students not to share food.
- Will participate in training from a registered organisation in understanding and dealing with severe allergic reactions / anaphylaxis when necessary.
- Will provide information regarding allergens within the classroom for any activities that may involve food such as camps, excursions etc and liaise accordingly with families of children with allergies.
- Will assist in encouraging self-responsibility.

First Aid

- First aid protocols ensure safe secure storage and immediate access to a child's Epi-pen and other first aid equipment.
- First aid protocols encourage self-management while acknowledging that staff are responsible for managing first aid emergencies.
- A 'general use' adrenaline autoinjector is available within the school in the event of an anaphylactic reaction for any student, whether or not they have a known allergen.
- An ambulance is to be called whenever an adrenaline autoinjector is administered.

Promotion

This policy will be promoted by: School newsletter, School website, acquaintance nights, class apps.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

References

Health Support Planning: Anaphylaxis and severe allergies in education and care, File number 018/07540, Version 1.3, 1st July 2020.. Department for Education

Be a Mate – Making Allergy Treatment Easier. Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia