



ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

Rationale:

- Allergies come in many different forms and severities e.g.: food allergies, insect bites etc. Some can be treated with an anti-histamine, while others require an adrenaline injection.
- Anaphylaxis affects an increasing number of children who have allergic reactions. It is important that all staff are aware of, well informed and competent to deal with any incident occurring from an anaphylactic reaction.

Aims:

- Cana Catholic Primary School will fully comply with Ministerial Order 706 and the associated Guidelines published and amended by the Department from time to time.
- That all staff be sufficiently trained in and competent to apply correct procedures regarding an anaphylactic reaction.

Implementation:

Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans

- The Principal will ensure that an Individual Anaphylaxis 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.
- 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.
- The Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will set out the following:
 - information about the student's medical condition that relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, including the type of allergy/allergies the student has (based on a written diagnosis from a Medical Practitioner);
 - strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to known and notified allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of School Staff, for in-school and out-of-school settings including in the school yard, at camps and excursions, or at special events conducted, organised or attended by the School;
 - the name of the person(s) responsible for implementing the strategies;
 - information on where the student's medication will be stored;
 - the student's emergency contact details; and
 - an ASCIA Action Plan.
- School staff will then implement and monitor the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan.
- The student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's Parents in all of the following circumstances:

- annually;
 - if the student's medical condition, insofar as it relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, changes;
 - as soon as practicable after the student has an anaphylactic reaction at School; and
 - when the student is to participate in an off-site activity, such as camps and excursions, or at special events conducted, organised or attended by the School (eg. class parties, elective subjects, cultural days, fetes, incursions).
- It is the responsibility of the Parents to:
 - provide the ASCIA Action Plan;
 - inform the School in writing if their child's medical condition, insofar as it relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, changes and if relevant, provide an updated ASCIA Action Plan;
 - provide an up to date photo for the ASCIA Action Plan when that Plan is provided to the School and when it is reviewed; and
 - provide the School with an Adrenaline Autoinjector that is current and not expired for their child.

Adrenaline Autoinjectors (EpiPens) for General Use

- The Principal will purchase Adrenaline Autoinjector(s) for General Use (purchased by the School) and as a back up to those supplied by Parents.
- The Principal will determine the number of additional Adrenaline Autoinjector(s) required. In doing so, the Principal will take into account the following relevant considerations:
 - the number of students enrolled at the School who have been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis;
 - the accessibility of Adrenaline Autoinjectors that have been provided by Parents of students who have been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis;
 - the availability and sufficient supply of Adrenaline Autoinjectors for General Use in specified locations at the School, including
 - in the school yard, and at excursions, camps and special events conducted or organised by the School; and
 - the Adrenaline Autoinjectors for General Use have a limited life, usually expiring within 12-18 months, and will need to be replaced at the School's expense, either at the time of use or expiry, whichever is first.

School Management and Emergency Response

The following procedures for emergency response to anaphylactic reactions will include:

- a complete and up to date list of students identified as having a medical condition that relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction;
- details of Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans and ASCIA Action Plans and where these can be located:
 - in all classrooms
 - first aid room / office
 - staff room
 - on school excursions
 - on school camps, and

- at special events conducted, organised or attended by the school.

Communication Plan

- The staff and school community will be made aware of each child with anaphylaxis at the beginning of the year and at any other time when a new student is enrolled or current student circumstances change.
- Photographs and the individual student's reactions and allergies will be displayed in all classrooms and buildings.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their child has an adequate supply of appropriate in-date medication with them at school at all times.
- All staff will be trained in the administering of adrenaline auto-injecting devices.
- Adrenaline auto-injecting devices and other relevant medication are located in the First Aid room and will be made available to the child at all times including excursions and camps.
- Adrenaline auto-injecting devices will be kept in the classroom during teaching time and in the First Aid room during before school, at recess, at lunch time and after school hours.
- A First Aid staff member will be responsible for checking the expiry date of the adrenaline auto-injecting devices and other relevant medication.
- Care will be immediately provided for any student who develops signs of an anaphylactic reaction in accordance with their anaphylaxis management plan.
- An ambulance and parents will be notified immediately.
- During off-site or out of school activities, including on excursions, school camps and at special events conducted or organised by the School the staff member will administer the EpiPen, call for an ambulance and notify the school. The school will then notify the parents.
- Volunteers and casual relief staff will be informed of students with a medical condition that relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in their care.
- If no plan is available, the child is to be reassured, paramedics called and notified of the situation at hand. A spare adrenaline auto-injecting device will be used should the need arise. Parents will be immediately notified.
- Once anaphylactic medication has been administered, details are to be recorded in the First Aid medication book, which is located in the First Aid room.
- It is the responsibility of the Principal of the School to ensure that relevant School Staff are:
 - trained; and
 - briefed at least twice per calendar year.

Staff Training

- The following School Staff will be appropriately trained:
 - School Staff who conduct classes that students with a medical condition that relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction; and
 - Any further School Staff that are determined by the Principal.
- The identified School Staff will undertake the following training:
 - an Anaphylaxis Management Training Course in the three years prior; and
 - participate in a briefing, to occur twice per calendar year (with the first briefing to be held at the beginning of the school year) on:
 - the School's Anaphylaxis Management Policy;

- the causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis;
 - the identities of the students with a medical condition that relates to an allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, and where their medication is located;
 - how to use an Adrenaline Autoinjector, including hands on practise with a trainer Adrenaline Autoinjector device;
 - the School's general first aid and emergency response procedures; and
 - the location of, and access to, Adrenaline Autoinjector that have been provided by Parents or purchased by the School for general use.
- The briefing must be conducted by a member of School Staff who has successfully completed an Anaphylaxis Management Training Course in the last 12 months.
 - In the event that the relevant training and briefing has not occurred, the Principal will develop an interim Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan in consultation with the Parents of any affected student with a medical condition that relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction. Training will be provided to relevant School Staff as soon as practicable after the student enrolls, and preferably before the student's first day at School.
 - The Principal will ensure that while the student is under the care or supervision of the School, including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days, there is a sufficient number of School Staff present who have successfully completed an Anaphylaxis Management Training Course in the three years prior.

Annual Risk Management Checklist

- The Principal will complete an annual Risk Management Checklist as published by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to monitor compliance with their obligations.

This policy was last reviewed in 2019.