



## WILLOW GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

#### BACKGROUND

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common allergens in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medications.

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 those triggers. Partnerships between schools and parents are important in ensuring that certain food items are kept away from susceptible students while at school.

#### PURPOSE

- To provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at the risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the school curriculum.
- To educate staff, students and parents on the seriousness of anaphylaxis and to raise awareness about the school's anaphylaxis management policy in the school community.
- To engage with parents/carers of the students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student
- 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.

#### AIMS:

- To make staff aware of anaphylaxis symptoms.
- To identify anaphylaxis sufferers in school and reduce risks of reactions.
- To be able to treat/manage an anaphylaxis reaction.

## IMPLEMENTATION:

- 1.1 Staff will have regular professional development in anaphylaxis management, including a yearly refresher by an accredited body.
- 1.2 Children with anaphylaxis will supply their action plan for anaphylaxis upon enrolment and a copy of this be given to all staff to be displayed in their classrooms.
- 1.3 **Anaphylaxis Management Plan**. Every student at risk of anaphylactic reaction attending the school will have a written Anaphylaxis Management Plan filled out by their family doctor or paediatrician, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian. This will be attached to the student's records.  
The management plan will include:
  - Usual medical treatment.
  - A written action plan detailing medications to be used in cases of anaphylaxis. This should include how to recognise worsening symptoms and what to do during an acute attack. This action plan will be provided by the student's doctor and should be easily accessible to all staff.
  - Name, address and telephone number of an emergency contact.
  - Name, address and telephone number (including an after-hours number) of the student's doctor.
- 1.4 A list of children at risk of anaphylactic reaction will be placed in a visible place in the staff room, sickbay, in the child's classrooms, office and After School Care room.
- 1.5 As well as ready access to the details of each student's anaphylaxis treatment and action plan:
  - A current EpiPen will be kept in an appropriate area.
  - Clearly written instructions on how to use this medication are included with the EpiPen.
- 1.6 The Principal and parent / carer will be responsible to check the expiry date of the EpiPen.
- 1.7 Children will have their medication stored in an agreed upon location, clearly labelled with name and instructions for use.
- 1.8 Anaphylaxis management and treatment will occur when a child presents, displaying signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis which include hives/rash, tingling in or around the mouth, abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhoea, facial swelling, cough or wheeze, difficulty breathing or swallowing, loss of consciousness or collapse, or cessation of breathing.
- 1.9 Our school will manage anaphylaxis by informing the school community about anaphylaxis via the school newsletter at the start of each year.
- 1.10 Anaphylaxis is best prevented by knowing and avoiding the allergens. Students with anaphylaxis will supply safe treats to be

kept at school when other students bring birthday cakes or class treats to share.

- 1.11 Willow Grove PS will raise awareness of the risks associated with anaphylaxis and to implement practical age-appropriate strategies to minimise exposure to known allergens.
- 1.12 All children will eat their lunches inside or under the supervision of a teacher. This will enable staff to monitor food consumption and discourage the sharing of food.
- 1.13 The school will keep the lawns well mown, ensure children always wear shoes, and not allow drink cans at school.

### **COMMUNITY MESSAGE:**

Parents are free to pack the foods of their choice for their children to eat at school, however I ask that you are mindful that at this school we have students who are anaphylactic, a condition that can cause death.

Staff at Willow Grove PS will reinforce that we don't share food and that we should wash our hands after eating. Where it is known that students have brought allergen products to school and there is an anaphylactic student in the classroom, the teacher will take all realistic precautions to minimise risk. Parents can help us maintain a safe environment by ensuring products containing allergens are placed in a labelled, sealed container or plastic bag.

Please be aware that in classrooms we do not use food as treats or rewards. Food such as cakes or other foods may be sent to school to celebrate birthdays however a full list of ingredients needs to be provided. On special occasions when food is freely available, teachers will ensure that a safe environment is maintained for all students. Prior to commencing units of work that involve cooking, teachers will discuss the individual needs of students at risk with parents / carers.

### **EVALUATION:**

1. Informal observation of children at all times especially during eating
2. Regular monitoring of EpiPen, in terms of expiry date
3. Review in 2018

