

School Guidelines: Nut Free School Environment

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Related Policies and Plans: Health and Safety Policy – First Aid 2003, Administration of Prescribed Medication, Catheters and Injections to Students 1997

Rationale:

Maribyrnong Primary School aims to provide a safe environment for students and staff who suffer from allergies to nut products.

Severe allergic reactions can result in anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a sudden, potentially fatal allergic reaction, which can occur within seconds of exposure to an allergen. Symptoms may include swelling of the face or throat, runny nose, inflamed and swollen eyes, hives, wheezing, difficulty breathing, stomach pains, vomiting and diarrhoea, drop in blood pressure and collapse.

Products such as peanut butter and nutella, which are sticky in nature, are of particular concern and may be transferred between individuals through contact with door handles, taps, furniture, writing implements, etc.

Procedure Statement:

All students, staff and members of the school community will be made aware of the risks to the health of people who are susceptible to allergies caused by nut products. The incidence of nuts and nut products will be actively discouraged in the school environment. These issues will be given a high and regular profile through the fortnightly newsletter, the Possum Press, to ensure that the school community is aware of the extreme risk to those with nut allergies.

Procedures:

All staff will be made aware of individuals who have been identified as **at risk** of allergic reaction to nuts. Photographs of these individuals (permission granted) will be clearly displayed in the staffroom and front office first aid register.

An anaphylaxis action plan will be negotiated and signed by the individual's doctor. The action plan will be kept in the first aid register, staff room and in teacher's offices. The action plan will also be located in a backpack which teachers will carry while on playground duty.

The backpack is always returned to the northeastern junior school wet area where it is hung on a designated hook. The action plan and associated medications accompany the child at risk to any outdoor activities or excursions.

The backpack will also contain all relevant medications so in the event of an emergency, the playground duty teacher can respond immediately. The school will call an ambulance immediately.

The backpack will also contain laminated cards with Playground Assistance Required written on them. These are to be used by the playground duty teacher in the case of an anaphylactic emergency or in any other emergency. The playground duty teacher will wear a fluorescent yellow vest while on duty to enable students to locate the teacher quickly.

Auto-injectors will be kept in a locked drawer in the front office and in a locked drawer in the teacher's office.

All staff will undertake annual training in the administration of the auto-injector.

All staff will regularly practice using the auto-injector with a practice pen located in the Principal's office.

Auto-injectors will be checked regularly by the front office first aid officers to ensure that they are within their use by date.

All staff will be taken through the treatment plans at staff meetings once a term.

Class groups with children who are identified as having nut allergies will wash their hands before and after eating.

All students will be educated about allergic and anaphylactic reactions.

The Possum Pantry will supply nut-free products.

After School Care will supply nut-free products.

People donating food items to the school for fundraising and other events will be made aware of the policy and procedures regarding maintaining a nut free environment.

At various times other foods may need to be discouraged from particular classes where anaphylaxis to an allergen other than nuts is known.

Evaluation

This set of procedures will be reviewed and publicised at the beginning of each school year.

Reviewed and updated March 2014