



# Girraween Primary School

## RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

PERSONAL BEST

RESPONSIBILITY

CARE

RESPECT

FAIRNESS

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

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### **Girraween Primary School Anaphylaxis Policy**

#### **Rationale**

Anaphylaxis ('allergic shock') is the most severe form of allergic reaction and can be life threatening. Anaphylaxis is experienced by 0.5% of the population. The most common triggers are food, insect stings and, sometimes medication. The only effective first aid response to a severe reaction is immediately administering adrenaline while waiting for medical assistance. Adrenaline is administered via an EpiPen or similar device. For a mild reaction, antihistamine can be administered in line with an action plan provided from a medical practitioner specific to each student.

#### **Aims**

Girraween Primary School aims to provide a safe and supportive environment for staff and students who have been diagnosed with allergies that cause anaphylaxis.

#### **Implementation**

##### **Parents / guardians must**

- provide an action plan for anaphylaxis prepared by a medical practitioner– to be updated yearly
- provide an EpiPen/antihistamine and fill in a medication form
- ensure the EpiPen is current at all times
- ensure emergency phone numbers are always up to date
- include these details in the medical section of excursion forms so the organising teacher is fully aware of the student's medical needs.

If a staff member has an anaphylaxis allergy, he/she should follow these same steps.

##### **The School will:**

- store EpiPens provided by parents in the first aid cupboard in the preschool or the front office first aid room
- ensure one third of staff are trained to use EpiPens
- monitor the age of EpiPens and advise parents if they need to be replaced (this information will also be recorded on the action plan) EpiPens can go off if the temperature is not right; they may appear discoloured or have sediment in them
- School to supply a letter to other parents in their child's class explaining the allergy and requesting support of the nut aware policy or any other measures to limit the risk to the affected student.

**Commented [JW1]:** In other policies it states that medication is stored in staff room - please update to where the medication is actually stored

- display action plans in the classrooms of affected students
- give cards to all teachers outlining special medical needs of students and staff
- ensure food sold in the canteen does not contain nuts or nut products
- ensure a staff member or parent with anaphylaxis training attends school excursions or camps.

### Preventative actions

#### ***Nut allergies***

The school is to be advertised as a 'nut aware' school. Products labelled 'may contain traces of nuts' are permitted at school.

It is to be strongly recommended that students:

- do not bring any foods to school that contain nuts (this includes products labelled 'contains nuts')
- do not share foods.

If a student brings a nut product to school, parents are to be notified and the school will give the student other food.

#### ***Other food allergies***

If a student enrolls at the school with any food allergies, an action plan needs to be in place.

#### ***Insect allergies***

The school will monitor the school grounds and remove bee hives and wasps nests.

**Commented [JW2]:** How is this being managed with the bees hives to be placed in the farm grounds?

#### ***Anaphylaxis First aid process***

1. Child is to lay flat. If they are having trouble breathing, they should sit up. They should not stand or walk.
2. Supervising adults call the front office for urgent medical assistance.
3. First aid officer takes EpiPen to the child.
4. EpiPen is administered by trained personnel according to instructions.
5. Ambulance is called.
6. Parents / guardians are notified.
7. If parents / guardians can't get to the school in time, a staff member will accompany the child in the ambulance.

Approved by Girraween Primary School Council: November 2023  
Review due: 2025