



San Carlo Junior National School

Anaphylaxis Policy

Introduction:

This policy was developed in the 2023/24 school year in response to the increasing number of pupils who were presenting with severe allergies. It will be reviewed and updated as necessary and will be signed and dated by the Chairperson of the Board of Management to reflect this.

Rationale:

The purpose of this policy is:

- To provide a safe environment in which allergic reactions can be avoided.
- To provide staff with information to take appropriate and immediate action when a reaction occurs.
- To minimise the exposure of students at risk to known allergens.

Definition:

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction that occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (insect bite/food). Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and requires an emergency response.

Signs and Symptoms of Anaphylaxis:

- Generalised flushing of the skin anywhere on the body
- Nettle rash(hives) anywhere on the body
- Difficulty in swallowing or speaking
- Swelling of throat and mouth
- Alterations in heart rate
- Abdominal Pain, nausea and vomiting
- Sudden Weakness due to a drop in blood pressure
- Collapse and unconsciousness

Pen Storage:

- Pens are stored in the unlocked, clearly marked cabinet in the Principal's office. They will be clearly labelled with the child's name.

Emergency Plan if incident occurs IN the classroom

- Adult in charge stays with the child
- Adult rings the office/sends another adult or possibly pupils to the office to dial Emergency Services 999 or 112 and to obtain the EPIpen which is located in the Principal's office.
- Adult administers the EPIpen (and other medication as per medical specialist recommendation)
- Contact Parents
- Ensure that the child's airway is clear

- Ensure all items are replaced in the kit and taken to the hospital

Emergency Plan if incident occurs OUTSIDE the classroom

- Adult in charge stays with the child, while another adult or possibly pupils obtain the EPIpen.
- Adult administers the EPIpen (and other medication as per medical specialist recommendation)
- Adult in charge ensures emergency services are notified and that the second pen is obtained.
- Contact Parents
- Stay with child
- Ensure that the child's airway is clear
- Ensure all items are replaced in the kit and taken to the hospital

In the unlikely event that the office is unattended, pupils should go immediately to the nearest teacher who will dial the Emergency Services.

Role of Parents (of children with severe allergies)

- Parents are responsible for notifying the school that their child is at risk (enrolment or diagnosis). A letter from the relevant medical specialist, detailing the nature of the allergy and the appropriate intervention, should be submitted for inclusion on the child's file. The school will only administer medication as per letter from medical specialist.
- Students with food allergies should only eat foods provided by parents from home.
- New staff members to be informed by Principal and parent of allergic student.
- Parents are responsible for providing the school with the correct EPIpen with the appropriate dosage.
- Parents are responsible for advising the school of any changes in the nature of the allergy and of any changes in the prescribed medication dosage.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring that EPIpens are replaced in advance of their expiry date.

Role of Staff

The school will endeavour to minimise the exposure of children at risk of an allergic reaction to known allergens.

- School policy states that nuts and products containing nuts are not allowed in the school lunches.
- EPIpens will be stored as directed by the accompanying instructions.
- The Principal and staff will consult with the parents to establish and review the management of the allergy in the school context. The Emergency Response Plan will also be discussed on an annual basis.
- Staff will be informed on the plan, procedures and emergency response plan.
- Parents are responsible for delivering briefing to teachers and relevant ancillary staff in respect of their own child.
- Foods that contain nuts or may contain traces of nuts may be consumed at school by staff or visitors, but **only in the staff room**. Adults who have consumed such products must ensure that they **wash their hands before**

being in the company of students.

- EPIpens are stored in the Principal's office and are readily accessible.
- EPIpens are to be brought on all school excursions.

Role of wider school community

Parents/Guardians and pupils should support the procedures that have been put in place to

- (a) minimise exposure to allergens and
- (b) promote awareness of severe reactions to allergens and the appropriate emergency response. As a preventative measure, we are a 'nut free' school.

Conclusion

This policy promotes non-contact with the allergens. It provides a plan to identify symptoms and an emergency action plan for all staff to ensure the well-being of identified students.

Ratified by the Board of Management:

Chairperson B.O.M.: 

Date: 21/11/2023