



**Marion Primary School
Nut Aware Policy &
Support of Students Identified as at Risk of Anaphylaxis**

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. Allergic reactions are common and occur in response to many substances in our environment producing mild reactions. Some people however will have an acute reaction to a trigger producing a severe allergic reaction – anaphylaxis. Such reactions can be serious and life threatening.

Food, insect venom and medication are the main triggers of anaphylaxis. Food allergies are a common cause of anaphylaxis and can be a significant health problem for members of our school community who are at risk. Nuts are one food in particular that is likely to be a trigger for people with anaphylaxis, although <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/food-allergy/in-depth/food-allergies/ART-20045949> lists the top eight of other common foods that may create a reaction as:

- Milk
- Eggs
- Peanuts
- Tree nuts (such as almonds, cashews, walnuts)
- Fish (such as bass, cod, flounder)
- Shellfish (such as crab, lobster, shrimp)
- Soy
- Wheat

The school acknowledges that due to food processing practices, it is impractical to eliminate all known allergens and in particular nuts or nut products entirely from an environment where there is food. However by becoming a “Nut Aware” school we are ensuring a duty of care to those students who are at risk.

Purpose:

To provide a safe learning environment for all members of Marion Primary School

To raise the awareness of all members of the community regarding severe allergies and anaphylaxis

Support for Students at Risk of Anaphylaxis

- If written information provided by the parent from a doctor confirms that his/her child has been assessed as being at risk of anaphylaxis, the following documents must be provided by the parent to the Principal:
 1. Allergy care plan (including Anaphylaxis) see Specific Health Care Plan on <https://www.decd.sa.gov.au/supporting-students/health-e-safety-and-wellbeing/health-care-plans>
 2. Anaphylaxis Action Plan – see Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy website: <http://allergy.org.au/content/view/10/3/>

- The provision of a current (pre-expiry date) auto injector on site is the responsibility of the parent. The date of expiry of such medication will be displayed prominently in the First Aid room and the parent will be notified of impending expiry date. Ultimately it is the parent's responsibility to ensure a timely replacement.
- For very young children at risk of anaphylaxis, it may be determined that additional short term support hours to monitor their behaviour during transition to school is required.
- Parents will be asked for permission to display details regarding their child's health information, including treatment (and including photo of the child) in the staff room, in teachers' information packs which are made available to Temporary Relieving Teachers, and other places as determined appropriate by negotiation between the parent and the Principal e.g. OSHC Director's office, canteen.
- Every reasonable effort is made to minimise exposure of risk to known allergens. This includes:
 1. Determining a risk strategy and management plan with reference to the anaphylaxis action plan for each student who is identified as at risk of experiencing anaphylaxis
 2. Annual training for all staff (including Canteen Manager, OSHC staff, CPSW and all school staff) in:
 - treatment of asthma
 - training in anaphylaxis prevention, recognition and management
 - and anaphylaxis training including administration of an automatic injector device i.e. EpiPen (injected form of adrenaline)
 3. Development of a "Nut Aware" environment
 4. Promotion of "allergy aware" strategies at our school and amongst our school community

Management:

This policy will be managed through:

- Working with the parents of students at risk of experiencing anaphylaxis to develop strategies that support their inclusion in all areas of the curriculum;
- Ensuring that students with allergies to insect venom always wear enclosed shoes;
- Information session provided at Annual General Meeting and reinforced in class meetings at Acquaintance Night;
- Parents will be asked not to send food to school with their child that contains nuts. This includes peanut paste, Nutella, muesli bars, all nuts and cooking oil containing peanut oil, as well as foods containing nuts, (but does not extend to 'food may contain traces of nuts');
- The school (including Breakfast Club and OSHC) will avoid the use of peanuts, peanut butter or other peanut products in curricular or extra-curricular activities;
- Any curriculum materials that advocate the use of peanut products will be removed from the school;
- The canteen will not sell foods that contain nuts nor use food products that contain nuts in preparation of special days. Food packaging that bear the statement "may contain nuts" do not need to be removed from the canteen;
- The school ensuring that food products are not used as behavioural incentives;

- Informing families in advance of changes to routines i.e. excursions, special lunch days, etc.
- Being aware of risk of accidental exposure e.g. by noting details on food packaging, having milk cartons in “construction play” or students at risk not taking part in picking up litter;
- Depending on the age and level of development of the affected student, removing known food triggers from reach;
- Staff supervising eating at lunch time in classes;
- In classes where students are at risk of Anaphylaxis, desks will be cleaned daily;
- Students encouraged not to share food;
- Students encouraged to wash hands after eating;
- If staff notice students in a class where there is a student at risk of anaphylaxis have brought food that contains nuts or nut products, the students will be asked to eat that food away from any other children and to wash their hands before going to play;
- Staff will participate in training from St John/ Australian Red Cross in understanding and dealing with anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction) including administration of automatic injector device (Epipen);
- If inadvertent exposure to the triggers occur, then the health plan needs to be followed immediately;
- Reviewing Anaphylaxis action plans and health support plans following change in the student’s needs or an anaphylactic event. In any case, the plans will be reviewed every 12 months;

Promotion

The policy will be promoted by:

- Parents and caregivers being informed via the newsletter and posters;
- New families to the school community being informed via the Parent Information Pack and at the enrolment interview;
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities;
- Governing Council being informed with approval and support given;
- Students being informed via teachers, signs and the newsletter;

N.B. In this policy, “Parent” refers to any adult (parent, guardian, care giver) who has a caring or parenting role with a child.

Governing Council approved 9/11/2016

Review: September 2018