
School Procedure:	Anaphylactic Awareness Procedure
Reviewed	2023
Related Policies and Procedures:	<i>First Aid Policy and First Aid General Procedure</i>

Procedure Statement

At Amaroo School we promote an anaphylactic awareness environment. We endeavour to provide responsible support for children who have nut allergies and suffer severe anaphylactic reactions that may be life threatening. We ask your cooperation in making sure that any foods you send to school with your child be free of nuts or nut products.

Background

Exposure to food containing nut-based products could be very harmful to children and adults with allergies to nuts. Even trace amounts can be very dangerous, and in some instances, life threatening. Anaphylactic reactions may also be triggered by bites and stings by bees, wasps, ants or ticks.

Definitions

The most severe form of allergic reaction is called anaphylaxis, where emergency medical treatment is required. Severe symptoms of anaphylaxis include obstruction of the airway, blood pressure drop, or heart arrhythmia. Any of these reactions can become life-threatening and should be treated as a medical emergency.

Rationale

- To provide a safe environment for all members of Amaroo School.
- Raise awareness to all members of the community, including staff, regarding anaphylaxis.

The Education and Care Services National Regulations outlines specific requirements for the development of a suite of plans in consultation with parents and carers for any student with known anaphylaxis. These plans include a Medical Management Plan, which comprises the Known Medical Condition Response Plan, a Risk Minimisation Plan and a Communications Plan.

Procedures

The emergency management of an allergic reaction, including the use of an EpiPen, must always be part of a strategy that includes calling for medical assistance.

To minimise the risk to individuals, the following management strategies are in place:

- Parents and Carers are requested NOT to send food to school that contains nuts, especially peanuts. This includes products such as peanut butter, Nutella, all nuts and cooking oil and other food that may contain nuts.
- Restrictions on the sale of foods containing nuts and nut products in the school canteen.
- Removal of beehives and wasp nests within the school grounds.
- Students and staff who are identified with severe allergic reactions need to have a Medical Management Plan, which comprises the Known Medical Condition Response Plan, a Risk Minimisation Plan and a Communications Plan (signed by their doctor or specialist) that should include:

- Detail of triggers
- Early warning signs/symptoms
- First aid action to be taken
- Emergency and medical contact details

In the event of an anaphylaxis emergency a staff member (First aid officer) should stay with the student to ensure medical observation occurs, and call an ambulance immediately.

If parents are unsure about a certain food, they are encouraged to discuss it with a staff member.

Training

Amaroo School will exercise due diligence in offering first aid training to all Amaroo School Staff in accordance with site-based risk assessments and Early Childhood legislative requirements. Anaphylaxis training is covered in first aid training and equips staff with the skills to administer adrenaline using an EpiPen.

EpiPens

EpiPens containing two strengths of adrenaline are available. They are the Junior (1-5 years) and Senior (stronger dose- students 5 years plus). People suffering anaphylaxis can obtain EpiPens from pharmacies as prescribed by medical practitioners. They should be used whether supplied by staff or student, providing its use is authorised to be given to the particular student or staff member and it is the appropriate dose for that person. In the absence of a written and signed Anaphylaxis Emergency Treatment Plan, only standard first aid can be given in an emergency and staff will be unable to administer adrenaline.