



SORRENTO PRIMARY SCHOOL

Allergy Aware Policy

RATIONAL

Due to the increasing number of students with allergies we are seeking to promote allergy awareness in our school community.

This is particularly relevant to students whose allergies cause an **Anaphylaxis** reaction. This is a life threatening reaction which can cause death by suffocation within minutes of a reaction commencing. Anaphylaxis reactions are frequently caused by nuts eg: peanuts / cashew nuts but may also be caused by a variety of other foods including eggs, dairy products and bee stings.

We will promote Allergy Awareness by-

- 1) Providing information (Appendix 1) to the school community via –
 - Newsletter articles
 - At Term 1 Parent Meetings and / or Class Newsletter
- 2) Year levels with students with anaphylaxis allergies will –
 - Hold class talks on the allergy and the need to NOT share food, to wash hands before and after eating and the dangers of bringing nut products to school.
 - Send home a letter by parents of students with allergies where provided.
- 3) Teachers with allergy students will –
 - Monitor any food in the classroom eg: cooking, “birthday treats” provided by parents or class parties.
 - Establish class rules on –
 - not sharing food
 - washing hands before and after eating
 - cleaning up food spillages
 - Plan to ensure relief staff are aware of students with anaphylaxis allergies, their emergency medical plan and the location of the Epi/ana-pen.
 - Plan for excursions / sport etc to access Epi/ana-pen / emergency plan.
- 4) The school will –
 - Provide training in the use of Epi/ana-pen for staff in the year levels with anaphylaxis students.
 - With the parents, agree on a Medical Emergency Response Plan for each anaphylaxis student.
 - No anaphylaxis student to be asked to pick up rubbish.
- 5) Parents of anaphylaxis students will –
 - Ensure the Medical Emergency Response Plan is completed and kept Up-to-date.
 - Ensure that Epi/ana-pen and / or medication provided is –
 - clearly labelled with the child’s Name, Year and Room Number and dosage required.
 - has a current use-by date
 - Be invited to send a personal letter home to the class parents explaining their child’s allergy needs.
 - Provide a current photo of the child if requested.

How to Use Epi/ana-pen

Advise someone to call an ambulance; try to have someone else present.

Step 1 Locate child's epipen and read instructions for any variations.

Step 2



Form fist around the epipen and pull off blue safety release

Step 3



Hold epipen against outer thigh and press firmly towards thigh until you hear click. You can inject through clothing if necessary.

Step 4 Hold firmly in thigh for several seconds

Step 7 Ensure ambulance and parents have been called. Stay with child until help arrives.

How to Use Anapen

Step 1 Locate child's anapen and read instructions for any variations.

Step 2



Remove black needle cap, keep to place over exposed syringe

Step 3



Remove black safety cap from firing button

Step 4



Hold Anapen against outer thigh and press red firing button. You can inject through clothing if necessary.

Step 5



Hold Anapen in position for 10 seconds. This allows the full dose of adrenaline to be injected. Place cap over needle

Step 6 Ensure ambulance and parents have been called. Stay with child until help arrives

Appendix 1

Allergy Aware School

We have a number of students in the school with severe life threatening allergies (Anaphylaxis reaction). These allergies may include nuts, dairy products, soy products, eggs, seafood, fish and bee stings.

An **anaphylactic reaction** involves the respiratory and cardiovascular systems and causes shock, suffocation and death within minutes of the allergy reaction commencing if not treated immediately.

These life threatening reactions can be generated by simply touching a surface that has allergic triggers, eg a nut product on it.

We are seeking your support in creating a safer environment by-

- Not providing nut or fish/seafood products at school.
- Encouraging your child to not share or swap their food or drink bottles with others.
- Encouraging your child to wash their hands before and after eating.
- When having other children to play or for a party be aware they may have allergies, including anaphylaxis reactions. Plan for any dietary needs and medication in discussion with the relevant parent.
- Encourage your students to wear shoes while at school.

Thank you for your support with our Allergy Aware policy.

Appendix 2

Allergy Aware Timeline

Term 1:

- 1 Staff P.D - Review Emergency Medical cases and Allergy Aware policy. Training of staff in use of epi/ana pens.
- 2 Review of Medical Action Plans with parents.
- 3 Parent meeting / Class letter will include Allergy Aware policy information.
- 4 Newsletter article - Appendix 1
- 5 Class teachers with anaphylaxis allergy students will talk to students.
- 6 Parents of students with anaphylaxis allergies may send a personal letter to class / year level families.

Term 2 and 3:

- 1 Newsletter article - Appendix 1.
- 2 Provide PD for new staff as required.

Term 4:

- 1 Newsletter article - Appendix 1
- 2 Medical Emergency Plans reviewed with parents.
- 3 Training staff in use of Epi-pen.

Appendix 3

Allergy Response Plan

- 1) Stay with the child

- 2) Send –
 - 2 children to get Epi/ana-pen (if in classroom).
 - 2 children to office / staffroom
 - Tell children to give Allergy student's name and to **RUN**.

- 3) Action –

Follow the emergency plan.

 - Assessment.

 - Epi/ana-pen to be administered if considered necessary or unsure.
Record time given.

 - Ambulance to be called
 - **(Ask for Intensive care Ambulance)**
 - (See plan as to where to direct ambulance
ie: Elfreda Ave or Seacrest Medical Centre).

 - Parents to be contacted.