



Edwardstown Primary School

Allergy Awareness Policy

This Policy outlines steps Edwardstown Primary School Community will take to minimise risk and provide allergy education.

Edwardstown Primary School is an allergy aware school. This is to protect children with allergies and educate all children on the dangers of allergies and their associated risks. It is our aim to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all staff, students and their families in our community.

Allergies can be serious and a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) is potentially life threatening although deaths are rare. One of the most common allergens is peanuts and tree nuts.

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Staff at Edwardstown Primary School will;

- Support allergy awareness by reinforcing the Policy through classroom activities
- Be trained and confident in use of an Epipen and associated triggers and prevention strategies.
- Educate students about the hazards and risks associated for children with allergies (eg the importance of not sharing or trading food)
- Reinforce and advise children not to share their food
- Encourage students to wash their hands after eating to help avoid possible skin rashes
- Discuss strategies on how to reduce the risk to anaphylactic students
- Regularly reinforce the Policy through school newsletters
- Ensure all families to the school community have access to a Policy
- Be vigilant when supervising the eating of recess and lunch foods

CLASSES WITH A CHILD AT RISK OF ANAPHYLAXIS

- Staff will educate students about the hazards and risks associated for children with allergies
- Reinforce that children do not share their food
- Encourage students to wash their hands after eating
- Classes with younger children (R – 3) may be provided with additional parent information. This may include a letter of request for parents of that classroom not to pack certain foods in their child/children's lunchbox. This letter will only be sent home if requested by the anaphylactic child/children's parents/guardians or the child/children's doctor.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensure that there is a standardised Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCI) Action Plan which includes a photo of the child and specifies his / her allergies as well as actions to be taken in the instance of an anaphylactic reaction occurring. The plan should include the name and contact details of the doctor who

completed the plan. These details will be available in the roll book, relief teacher's package, canteen and first aid area.

- Support for class teacher/s and other staff in implementing the health care plan.
- Reinforce appropriate avoidance and management strategies
- Ensure the canteen and other school lunch providers comply with the "Allergy Awareness Policy"
- Provide additional information to classes with children at risk of anaphylaxis (if requested by their parent/guardian and/or doctor)

PROMOTING THE ALLERGY AWARENESS POLICY

The Policy will be promoted by;

- Parents and caregivers will have access to a Policy and will be informed regularly via the newsletter
- Governing Council will be informed and approval and support sought
- Staff will be informed and provided with training opportunities when required
- Students will be informed via teachers, assemblies and newsletters