Anaphylaxis and Allergy Awareness Policy

Context

An allergic reaction occurs when the immune system reacts to substances in the environment which are harmless to most people. Anaphylaxis is a potentially life threatening, severe allergic reaction.

The school acknowledges that due to current food processing practices, it is impractical to eliminate all allergens entirely from an environment where there is food. It is assumed that any product may have traces of nut or other food allergy ingredients unless confirmed otherwise. The emphasis is therefore on raising awareness, adopting reasonable procedures and risk minimisation strategies, encouraging self-responsibility and considering students with severe allergies when planning activities.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- raise the awareness of severe allergies (anaphylaxis) within the Angaston Primary School community.
- provide a safe learning environment for students with severe allergies.
- assist in the provision of support and best practice for students with severe allergies.

Responsibilities:

Students will:

- NOT share food.
- wash hands after eating.
- be required to eat food containing known allergens away from other students and wash hands thoroughly.
- learn about allergies, signs and symptoms, treatment etc for students in their class.
- get help immediately if a student has an allergic reaction.

Parents/Caregivers:

- are aware students are not permitted to provide food to share with the class due to Covid-19 and potential allergies. In the case of a class party, the teacher will notify parents/caregivers of the food products NOT to be sent to school. This will mean that a student/s in the class may have a severe allergic reaction to a food product.
- must inform the school of their child's diagnosis and provide information on which allergens to avoid as soon as possible.
- must provide a copy of the ASCIA Anaphylaxis Action Plan or Health Care Plan and immediately inform the school of changes to their child's medical condition or management of, providing an updated plan if necessary. ASCIA Anaphylaxis Action Plans should be reviewed when a child is reassessed by their treating health professional, if their medical condition changes, each time they obtain a new adrenaline autoinjector prescription (approx. every 12 to 18 months).
- must provide an adrenaline autoinjector (i.e. EpiPen) and/or other prescribed medication, and ensure each has a pharmacy label to match the plan with clearly stated name, dose and administration instructions. Medications must be in date, clearly labelled and not expired.
- must replace their child's adrenaline autoinjector and any other medication as needed, before the expiry date or when used.
- are to assist in encouraging self-responsibility.

All Staff Members will:

- be made aware of students who have severe allergies (Medic alert posters, EDSAS, TRT folders)
- supervise eating at recess and lunchtime.
- encourage students not to share food.
- participate in training from a registered organisation in understanding and dealing with severe allergic reactions/anaphylaxis when necessary.
- provide information regarding allergens within the classroom for any activities that may involve food such as camps, excursions, class party etc and liaise with families of children with allergies.
- assist in encouraging self-responsibility.

First Aid:

- protocols ensure safe secure storage and immediate access to a child's Epi-pen and other first aid equipment.
- protocols encourage self-management while acknowledging that staff are responsible for managing first aid emergencies.
- A 'general use' adrenaline autoinjector is available within the school in the event of an anaphylactic reaction for any student, whether or not they have a known allergen.
- An ambulance is to be called whenever an adrenaline autoinjector is administered.

Promotion:

The policy will be promoted by:

- the school newsletter
- enrolment packs
- Governing Council
- school Website
- students being informed by classroom teachers, and through the Health curriculum using Be a Mate: An Allergy Awareness Resource

References:

Departmental policies A to Z

School and allergies - Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia

ASCIA First Aid Plan for Anaphylaxis - Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA)