



MELBA COLLEGE ANAPHYLAXIS AND MANAGEMENT POLICY

RATIONALE:

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (such as food or an insect bite). Although allergic reactions are common in children, severe life threatening reactions are uncommon and deaths are rare. However, anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and always requires emergency response. Melba College acknowledges that the management of a student at risk of anaphylaxis is a partnership between the College, the staff, the student, the student's parents and the student's doctor.

GUIDELINES:

- To provide a safe and healthy school environment that takes into consideration the needs of all students, including those who may suffer from anaphylaxis.
- To minimise risk of anaphylactic reaction by providing, as far as practicable, a safe, healthy environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of school life.

All stakeholders need to be made aware that it is not possible to achieve a completely allergen-free environment in any facility that is open to the general community.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Our school will manage anaphylaxis by:

- providing professional development for all staff
- identifying susceptible students and knowing their allergens
- informing the community about anaphylaxis
- ensuring food supplied by the canteen is labelled if it contains nuts, and making students aware of the food labelling processes
- requiring parents to provide an emergency management plan developed by a health professional and an EpiPen if necessary, both of which will be maintained in the general office for reference as required
- ensuring staff are provided with regular professional development on the identification and response to anaphylaxis and the proper use of an EpiPen.
- informing staff in charge of classes where allergens are most likely to exist
- as per management plan, ensuring EpiPens are taken on camps, excursions or any occasion away from the school environment.
- the school won't ban certain types of foods (eg: nuts) as it is not practicable to do so, and is not a strategy recommended by the Department of Education or the Royal Children's Hospital.

RELATED POLICIES & LINKS:

- First Aid Policy
- Medications Policy
- Camps and Tours Policy

- Asthma Policy
- Excursions Policy
- Emergency Management Policy
- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/health/anaphylaxis>

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