Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. Although allergic reactions are common in children, severe life threatening reactions are uncommon and deaths are rare. However, deaths have occurred and anaphylaxis must therefore be regarded as a medical emergency.

Food allergies are the most common triggers for an anaphylactic reaction. The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of those students who are at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens) and prevention of exposure to these triggers.

Parents/carers and families of children attending Clifton Hill Primary School who are at risk of anaphylaxis are required to:

- Inform school staff of the diagnosis and its cause
- Discuss prevention strategies with the school
- Provide an Anaphylaxis Management Plan in consultation with the child’s medical practitioner, including up to date photographs
- Supply the student’s EpiPen® and ensure it has not expired
- Ensure prompt replacement of EpiPen® upon expiration

To support parents/carers and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to anaphylaxis the school undertakes to:

- Identify students who are at risk of anaphylaxis
- Liaise regularly with parents
- Follow information contained in the student’s Anaphylaxis Management Plan
- Obtain training in how to recognise and respond to an anaphylactic reaction, including administering an EpiPen®
- Ensure the EpiPen® is stored correctly (at room temperature and away from light) in an unlocked, easily accessible place and is clearly labelled with the student’s name
- Know where the EpiPen® is located
- In the event of a reaction, follow the procedures in the student’s ASCIA Action Plan.
- Ensure that students at risk of anaphylaxis always have access to an EpiPen® on all school excursions or camps.
- Ensure casual relief teachers are informed of students at risk of anaphylaxis and the steps required for prevention and emergency response
- Ensure that a copy of the ASCIA Action Plan is maintained in the student’s classroom and in CRT folders
- Ensure that a copy of anaphylaxis procedures to follow is maintained in CRT folders
• Ensure that staff members are provided with professional development (a 3-hour training program) by St. Johns Ambulance Victoria. This training is valid for 3 years
• Ensure staff are briefed twice-yearly on the school’s anaphylaxis procedures and on the use of an EpiPen®.

**Nut Products**

To assist Clifton Hill Primary School to wherever possible prevent incidents of anaphylaxis the school recommends to the school community and advises for the safety of all students that the following products not be brought to school (either as part of school lunches, snacks or for any other reason):

- Raw or cooked nuts of any type (peanuts, almonds, cashews, pistachios, macadamia nuts, etc.)
- Nut spreads of any type (e.g. peanut butter, Nutella, etc.)
- Products which contain nuts and are labelled as containing nuts (e.g. chocolate bars with nuts, stir fry lunches with nuts, almond cakes, etc.).

The school canteen and before and after school care programs do not provide nut products to students.

**Products labelled as “may contain traces of nuts” (or similar)**

- It is acceptable to bring these products to school for consumption in student lunches or snacks (or for educational purposes).
- Where a student’s Action Plan informs Clifton Hill Primary School that these products represent a risk of triggering an allergic reaction in this student, staff will attempt to prevent exposure to these triggers. This includes food supplied to share communally (e.g. for student birthdays and class celebrations).
- Any student’s Action Plan may explicitly state that the student is allowed to consume the above products.

**Further Information:**

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development – Student Wellbeing – Anaphylaxis  
Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy: www.allergy.org.au  
Royal Children’s Hospital Allergy and Immunology Department:  
Anaphylaxis Australia: www.allergyfacts.org

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