Food Allergy awareness

Foods that most often cause an allergic reaction: peanut, tree nuts, milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, sesame, soy.

Anaphylaxis is a sudden, severe allergic reaction that involves various areas of the body simultaneously. Food allergies, insect stings, medications (most commonly penicillin), and latex can cause an anaphylactic reaction.

RATIONALE:
Ruskin Park Primary School has a duty of care towards students who have a life threatening allergy to any food or substance, in particular, nut allergies.

GUIDELINES:
- To notify school personnel and the school community that Ruskin Park is an Anaphylactic Aware school.
- To develop an Anaphylaxis Action Plan for a student with a nut allergy/allergies. This plan will be developed in consultation with the student/parents/carers and medical practitioner.
- To encourage ongoing communication between parents/carers and staff about the current status of the student’s allergies.
- To review action plans yearly or review if the student's current status changes.
- To implement prevention strategies for in and out of school settings.
- To raise awareness of staff, students and community about anaphylaxis and allergic reactions.
- To regularly train and update school on the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and to train staff in the competent administration of the Epipen.
- To inform all school personnel of the identity of those students with life threatening allergies.
- To store Epipens in an accessible unlocked kit in the First Aid Room so as to facilitate instant access. Epipens to be clearly labelled with the name of the student.
- To store Anaphylaxis Plans in the yellow kit housed in the First Aid Room.
- To provide staff with a student specific alert card to be used to notify First Aid and Office.

IMPLEMENTATION:
- First Aid teachers and the class teacher to meet with parents at the beginning of the school year to discuss the ASCIA (Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy) Anaphylaxis Plan for the student. The plan will be developed in conjunction with and signed by the student’s doctor. The school will then put into place the prevention strategies in the student’s Anaphylaxis Management Plan. When the Anaphylaxis Plan is changed then the parent is to provide a copy to the classroom teacher who will advise the first aid coordinator and school admin.
- The student’s medication and Epipen will be placed in a named sealed plastic bag in the Anaphylaxis Kit or in a named bag on top of the Anaphylaxis Kit, which are located on the top of the Medications Cupboard.
- First Aid teachers will regularly check for the correct date and monitor the condition of the Epipens. Parents will be advised when an Epipen is close to its use-by date so another in-date Epipen can be provided.
- Anaphylaxis Training to be provided to all staff each year by a certified trainer so that staff can receive updated information.
- Each staff member will be informed of the identity of all students with Anaphylaxis Action Plans.
- Casual Relief Teacher folders for the grades with students at risk of anaphylaxis to contain the student’s name and the School’s Management Plan and the student’s ASCIA Action Plan.
Allergy alert cards to be in the classrooms, specialist rooms and yard duty books. In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, the alert card, with the student’s photograph is sent to the office/staffroom, the ASCIA plan and Epipen will be brought to the student. The teacher will remain with the student to monitor the reaction and assist and reassure the student.

Teachers to raise student awareness about severe allergies and the importance of their role in fostering a school environment that is safe and supportive for their peers.

Teachers to avoid the use of food treats in class as rewards as they may contain hidden allergens.

For special occasions, teachers should consult parents/carers to send a special meal for the student.

All Kids Hope Mentors are required to check with the classroom teacher before giving any food, including lollies, to any student.

**Excursions**

- For excursions, the student’s Epipen and ASCIA Action Plan and school mobile phone if required must be taken.
- Teachers to consider the exposure to allergens.
- Teachers must have an emergency plan for the event of an anaphylactic reaction. Parents or carers may need to accompany the student as a strategy to support the student.
- All parent helpers are required to check with person in charge before giving any food, including lollies, to any student.

**Camps**

- A risk management strategy must be in place for students at risk of anaphylaxis.
- Camps must be advised in advance of any students with food allergies
- Camps asked to avoid stocking peanut or tree nut products when students from Ruskin Park Primary School are on site.
- Teachers to consider the exposure to allergens when food is consumed in buses or cabins.
- For excursions, the student’s Epipen and ASCIA Action Plan and school mobile phone if required must be taken on camp.
- An emergency procedure, detailing clear roles and responsibilities in the event of an anaphylactic reaction must be drawn up.
- The teacher in charge of students who are at risk on an anaphylactic reaction must ensure that, if the group activity is away from First Aid kit location then the teacher in charge of the student’s group must carry the Epipen. Teachers must be aware of the location of the Epipen.
- NEVR Notification of School activity is to be completed Liaison with emergency services prior to attending the camp is essential.
- Parents/Carers of students who are at risk on an anaphylactic reaction may be requested to accompany their child on camp.
- All parent helpers are required to check with person in charge before giving any food, including lollies, to any student.
Ruskin Park Primary School
ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

Canteen
- Products such as whole peanut and tree nuts (e.g. hazelnut, cashew and almond, including nut spreads are not to be stocked.)
- Avoid cross contamination of food as per Food Handling Regulations.
- Liaise with school staff and parents about the management of food allergies.
- Know the symptoms of an allergic reaction.
- Include the needs of students who are allergic when planning purchases or foods for special days.

Privacy
All parents of students who are at risk on an anaphylactic reaction will be informed that the student’s photograph will be displayed as required.

EVALUATION
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle.

This Policy was ratified by School Council on 24 March 2014

References:
4.4.2 Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide ‘School excursions’

Anaphylaxis Guidelines- A resource for managing severe allergens in Victorian Government Schools
DEECD

Emergency and Security Management