



St Joseph's

PARISH SCHOOL, WEIPA

Allergy Awareness

Policy & Plan

2016 - 2017

**BRINGING FAITH AND LEARNING TO
LIFE**

ST JOSEPH'S ALLERGY AWARENESS

Based upon and read in conjunction with the "CES Cairns Operational Policy and the Bishop's Commission for Catholic Schools"

(To be reviewed biannually)

Allergy Management Policy

Overview

This policy is concerned with a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of the school community suffering from specific allergies.

Rationale

St. Joseph's position is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment, rather: to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies. The intent of this policy is to minimize the risk of any student suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at school or attending any school related activity. The common causes of allergies relevant to this policy are nuts (in particular peanuts), dairy products, eggs, wasps, bees and ants. An allergic reaction to nuts is the most common high risk allergy, and as such demands more rigorous controls throughout the policy.

The underlying principles of this policy include:

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the student, staff, parent and visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects.
- Staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.
- Age appropriate student education on allergy awareness and self- responsibility.

Scope

This policy applies to all members of the St. Joseph's Parish School community:

- School Staff
- Parents / Guardians
- Volunteers
- Pre-service teachers
- Relief staff
- Students

Definitions

Allergy - A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (e.g. food and drug). Also known as hypersensitivity.

Allergen - A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.

Anaphylaxis - Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines.

Epipen - Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug "Adrenalin", which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration.

Minimized Risk Environment - An environment where risk management practices (e.g. Risk assessment forms) have minimised the risk of (allergen) exposure.

Health Management Plan - A detailed document outlining an individual student's condition treatment, and action plan for location of Epipen.

Key Strategies:

General

- The involvement of parents, staff and the student in establishing individual Health Management Plans.
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating individual student medical plans to all relevant staff.
- The incorporation of allergy management strategies into the risk assessments for all school events, excursions and sporting activities.
- Staff training in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- Age appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies.
- Parents / Guardians are requested to carefully consider eliminating allergenic food stuffs from their child's lunch boxes and celebratory events.

Nut related

- The Tuckshop, parent support groups (P&F) and outside caterers are made aware of the Allergy Management Policy and requested to eliminate nuts and food items with nuts as ingredient from their operations.
- Classroom teachers promote hand washing before and after eating.
- St. Joseph's is committed to a no food and drink sharing policy.
- Age appropriate education of the children with severe nut allergies – peanut and tree nut.
- All parents are asked to not send foods in school lunches that contain nuts, peanuts, tree nuts or 'nut traces'.

Dairy and Egg related

- Students with dairy product or egg allergies are managed by the school in consultation with the parents / guardians on a case by case basis.
- Age appropriate education of the children with the severe dairy/egg allergies.

Insect related

- Diligent management of wasp and ant nests on school grounds.
- Education of students to report significant presence of insects in play areas.
- Age appropriate education of the children with severe insect allergies.

1. Medical Information

- Parents are responsible for providing, in writing, ongoing accurate and current medical information to the school. The school will seek updated information via medical form at the commencement of each calendar year.

Furthermore, any change in a child's medical condition during the year must be reported to the school.

- For students with an allergic condition, the School requires parents / guardians to provide written advice from a doctor (GP), which explains the condition, defines the allergy triggers and any required medication.
- The School Administration Team will ensure there is an effective system for the management of medical information.
- The School Administration Team will ensure that a Health Management Plan (Action Plan) is established and updated for each child with a known allergy.
- Teachers and teacher aides of those students and key staff are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information
- Each Class teacher will receive an Ascertained and Medical Alert document in his/her class folder.
- Action Plans with a recent photograph for any students with allergies will be posted in relevant rooms (including Tuckshop) with parental permission.
- Where students with known allergies are participating in camps and/or excursions, the risk assessments and safety management plans for those camps and excursion will include each student's individual allergy Health Management Plan (Action Plan).
- Relevant sports coaches are provided with medical information and individual Health Management Plan for any student with known allergy prior to undertaking the activity.
- The wearing of a medic-alert bracelet is recommended by the School.

2. Medical Information (EpiPens)

Where EpiPens (Adrenalin) are required in the Health Management Plan:

- Parents/ guardians are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the EpiPens, in all sections of the school.
- The EpiPens are located securely in relevant locations approved by the Principal.
- Student EpiPens will be located in classroom 2F. All teachers are required to take their classroom keys in order to access the classroom.

3. Minimized Nut Environment

St. Joseph's will promote the following food allergy information through the school website, parent handbook, class letters, newsletter articles, parent support meetings (incl. P & F).

Whole School :- Food from home

Parents are urged to pack student lunches that contain:

- No peanuts
- No nuts of any type
- No foods with peanut or nut derivative or ingredient (e.g. Nutella)

- No foods that contain some traces of peanut (where possible)

Tuckshop

Tuckshop management will be consulted and work with the school administration team in preparing foods under the following guidelines:

- No Peanuts
- No nuts of any types
- No foods with peanut or nut derivative or ingredient (e.g. Nutella)
- No foods that contain some traces of peanut (where possible)
- It is expected that tuckshop staff are made aware of the risk of crosscontamination when preparing foods.
- Parents are expected to make themselves aware of tuckshop foods and train their children to avoid any products they consider 'unsafe'.

Camps / Excursions

- The teacher co-ordinating the activity shall check with any food provider and ensure 'safe' food is provided, or that an effective control is in place to minimise risk of exposure.
- Where a student is prescribed an EpiPen all staff present during the activity shall be made aware of the appropriate medical treatment as outlined in the students individual Health Management Plan.

BBQ's and Celebrations

Where a planned BBQ or celebration is planned, the coordinating group (e.g. P&F) are responsible for ensure that peanuts, peanut products or peanut oil are not used.

References:

- Brisbane Catholic Education – Health & Safety Services
- Various Gold Coast Catholic Schools
- Interim Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Queensland Schools (Education Queensland)
- Anaphylaxis Australia Organisation