

## Anaphylaxis and Allergy Awareness Policy

### Context:

At Riverbanks College B-12 we promote and construct learning environments that are safe and supportive. Students and staff may have anaphylactic (severe allergic) conditions. This means that exposure at school to certain allergens/triggers may constitute a risk to their health and wellbeing.

Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a systemic allergic reaction that can be fatal within minutes: either through swelling that shuts off airways or through a dramatic drop in blood pressure. While there can be a range of triggers such as bee stings, shellfish and eggs, the most common trigger is to tree nuts (including peanuts, cashews, almonds, pistachio).

It is not possible to guarantee that the environment will be completely free of potential hazards. However, compliance to reasonable guidelines will minimise the potential risks. The emphasis is therefore on raising awareness and adopting the reasonable procedures termed as 'Anaphylaxis and Allergy Awareness'.

### Purpose:

- to raise the awareness of anaphylactic conditions for all members of the Riverbanks College community.
- to provide a safe school environment for all members of the Riverbanks College community.

### Management:

#### Parents/Caregivers:

- will provide an anaphylaxis care plan from the doctor if their child has a serious allergy
- will check with teachers before providing food to share with the class for information about students who may have severe allergic reactions to foods
- will be requested NOT to send food to school that contains nuts. This includes peanut paste, Nutella, all nuts and cooking oil containing peanut oil, as well as foods containing nuts such as pesto, and some chocolate.
- will be informed of this policy at the commencement of each new school year and at enrolment
- will ensure that the school has 'in date'/current medication
- will provide written consent for older students who self-manage to keep medications in appropriate storage in class.

#### Students:

- will be encouraged to wash hands after eating
- who bring food containing known triggers, will be required to eat that food away from other students and to wash their hands before going to play.

#### Staff:

- will be made aware of students who have anaphylactic responses and notify class parents of known triggers
- will be informed of the storage of student medication
- will supervise students during lunch eating time and will be vigilant regarding this policy
- will educate students NOT to share food
- will educate students to wash their hands after eating
- as appropriate will educate students through Health and PE program
- will be offered training opportunities from St. John or Red Cross to understand procedures related to anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) including the use of Epi-pen as the need arises.

**Leadership/Administration staff will:**

- support the familiarisation with the school's Anaphylaxis and Allergy Awareness policy
- request that the canteen and OSHC adheres to the school's Anaphylaxis and Allergy Awareness policy
- inform families, TRT staff and new staff to the school of the policy
- provide opportunities for staff information and training
- provide regular updates re students with food allergies to classroom teachers.

**Canteen and OSHC:**

- will be required to comply with the Anaphylaxis and Allergy Awareness policy.

**Promotion:**

The policy will be promoted by:

- information via the school newsletter
- new families to the school community being informed via information in their enrolment package
- Governing Council being informed and giving approval and support to this policy
- staff being informed and offered training opportunities
- students being informed via teachers, through the newsletter and other appropriate means as is necessary.

For more information on food allergy call 1300728000 or visit [www.allergy.org.au](http://www.allergy.org.au)

<http://www.allergy.org.au/health-professionals/papers/prevent-anaphylaxis-in-schools-childcare>

[http://www.allergy.org.au/health-professionals/anaphylaxis\\_resources](http://www.allergy.org.au/health-professionals/anaphylaxis_resources)<http://www.allergy.org.au/schools-childcare>

<http://www.wch.sa.gov.au/services/az/divisions/paedm/allergy/index.html>

and for Australian food labelling visit [www.foodstandards.gov](http://www.foodstandards.gov)

Policy ratified by staff	April 2022
Endorsed by Governing Council	-
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