

Policy Statement

John Paul College complies with the guidelines set out in Ministerial Order 706.

John Paul College is committed to providing, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment for students who are at risk of anaphylaxis. The College is also committed to the provision of competent and prompt emergency care to ensure the health and optimum outcome of all staff, students or visitors who may experience an anaphylactic reaction, whether on or off school premises. 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.

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. Common causes are foods (peanuts, tree nuts-hazelnuts, cashews and almonds, egg, cow's milk, wheat, soy, fish and shellfish), insect stings (particularly bee stings), medications, latex and anaesthesia. Anaphylaxis is treated with adrenaline, which is given as an injection (EpiPen) into the muscle of the outer mid-thigh. When a student is prescribed an EpiPen they usually are given two: one for school and one for out of school.

Policy Guidelines

Aims:

- To provide prompt and competent emergency care to staff or students who may be experiencing an anaphylactic reaction.
- To proactively seek information about severe allergies from parents/guardians/staff.
- To ensure staff know the identity of students who are at risk of anaphylaxis, and are aware of the EpiPen location.
- To encourage students, where possible, to take responsibility for their own health issues, when information is provided and supported by parents/guardians.
- To provide staff with training in how to recognize and respond to an anaphylactic reaction, including administering an EpiPen.
- To provide information to staff, students and parents/guardians to raise awareness about severe allergies and the school's policy.
- To provide alternative plans, in consultation with parents/guardians, for students on excursions/camps.

Implementation:

- All student EpiPens and ASCIA (Australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy including Action Plans for Anaphylaxis) will be kept in a clearly marked unlocked cupboard in the Administration Office of the College. Each EpiPen will be kept in an individually labeled container along with the Action Plan and any other medication mentioned on the Action Plan.
- The College will purchase and maintain a supply of EpiPen Autoinjectors for general use at school as a backup to individual student pens.
- A recent photo of all students who have EpiPens will be displayed in the Food Technology area and the Canteen. Each student's allergen will also be identified.

- The College will require that parents/guardians provide an ASCIA Action Plan that has been signed by the student's medical practitioner and has an up to date photo of the student, an EpiPen that is not out of date, and any other medication mentioned on the Action Plan.
- Training will be provided to staff in how to recognize and respond to an anaphylactic reaction, understand the causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis, and where EpiPens are located within the College.
- The College Nurse will keep an up to date register of students/staff at risk of anaphylaxis and emergency contact details. This is based on the provision that parents/guardians provide up to date information.
- The College Nurse will check that the EpiPen is correctly stored, not cloudy or out of date at the beginning of each term. The parent/guardian will be informed a month prior in writing if the EpiPen needs to be replaced.
- The College will keep an up to date ASCIA Action Plan with a recent photo of the student, provided by the parent/guardian annually.
- The College will encourage ongoing communication between parents/guardians and staff about the current status of the student's allergies, the school's policies and their implementation. The College Anaphylaxis Management Policy will be discussed and sent to the parent/guardian so that they are informed of the role of the College and the Colleges' expectations of them.
- The College Nurse will work with staff to develop strategies to raise school staff, student and community awareness about severe allergies and prevention strategies.
- In the event of an anaphylactic reaction John Paul College's first aid and emergency response procedures and the Student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan must be followed.
- If there has been an anaphylactic reaction, the EpiPen must be replaced by the parent/guardian before the student returns to school.

When a student is off campus for a camp/excursion, they will carry their 'out of school' EpiPen and ASCIA Action Plan for the duration of time. This also applies to ACS days. The College is not responsible for ensuring students have their EpiPens with them while off campus.

Review date: March 2014