



Principal: Penny Wilde

Allergy and Nut Awareness Policy

PIMPALA PRIMARY SCHOOL IS A "NUT AWARE" SCHOOL

A number of our students have a severe allergy to nuts and can have a life threatening reaction. Anaphylactic shock can occur within seconds of exposure to a nut allergen.

This can occur if...

- contact is made with a person who has handled or eaten nuts or nut products
- contact is made with an object such as a toy or door handle that has traces of nuts on it.
- the person with the allergy inhales the air close to nuts or products containing traces of nuts.

For this reason the following *Allergy and Nut Awareness Policy* has been endorsed by staff and Governing Council.

PURPOSE

- To provide a safe environment for all members of the Pimpala Primary School community.
- To raise the awareness of all members of the community regarding severe allergies.

MANAGEMENT

Parents...

- Parents and caregivers are requested NOT to send food to school with their child that contains nuts (especially peanuts). This includes peanut paste products, peanut / satay sauce, nut biscuits, Nutella / chocolate spread, crushed nuts on cakes / buns, baklava or other nut pastries, nuts in salads, muesli bars, nougat, any other product with nuts as a usual ingredient as well as foods containing nuts.
- are requested NOT to send empty containers to school, for classroom use, if those containers once had a substance that included nuts or traces of nuts
- will be informed of this policy at the commencement of each new school year and at enrolment.
- will furnish the school with a Health Care Plan and Emergency Procedure Plan for each child they have with a nut allergy.

Students...

- are encouraged to wash their hands before and after eating.
- who bring food containing nuts, or nut products, are required to eat that food right away from other students and to wash their hands, face and mouth before going to play.
- are not to share food.

Staff...

- will be made aware of students who have anaphylactic responses, including nut allergies.
- will supervise all students during lunch eating time and will be vigilant in regard to this policy.
- will participate in training from Red Cross in understanding and dealing with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) as the need arises.
- will ensure no nut products to be included in food on special food days (eg cakes, or in any cooking activities at school or on school camps).

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PROMOTION

- Parents and caregivers are informed via the Policy Statement being distributed to all families at the beginning of each year.
- New families to the school community are informed.
- Governing Council are informed.
- Staff are informed and provided with training opportunities in the treatment of anaphylaxis.
- Staff are aware of specific students via photographs / information in staffroom, sickroom, in the classroom, TRT folders and class roll books.
- Education, information and procedures are part of staff induction.
- The First Aid officer is in charge of Epi-pens and medications (these treatments will be supplied by the parent / caregiver).
- Staff are required to take Epi-pens, medications and medical plans on any camps & excursions.
- Students are informed via teachers, letters and items in the newsletter.

The Principal will obtain specific medical information from the family at the time of enrolling a student with an allergy (eg an Anaphylaxis Action Plan being provided by a medical practitioner).

This will include:

- Clear photo of the child;
- Documentation of the allergic triggers;
- Documentation of the first aid response and prescribed medication;
- Identification and contact details of the doctor who has signed the action plan.

The Anaphylaxis Action Plan will need to be reviewed every 12 months by the child's parents/ caregiver and GP.

* This school acknowledges that due to food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate nuts or nut products entirely from an environment where there is food. Therefore we have opted to be a Nut "Aware" School.

Advice from the Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy recommends minimising the risk of food-induced anaphylaxis in schools by:

- Obtaining medical information;
- Education of carers;
- Practical strategies to avoid exposure to known triggers;
- Age appropriate education of children with severe food allergies.

Updated December 2017