Mid North Christian College
Hope in the Living God

LOCATION
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South Australia 5540

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Allergy & Anaphylaxis Policy

Rationale

It is important that all students are safe at Mid North Christian College. This safety extends to those students with allergies and health related issues, in this instance specifically, allergies that may result in anaphylaxis.

Mid North Christian College also seeks to ensure students and staff can engage in the same experiences as everyone else. An individual who has been diagnosed with severe allergies or anaphylaxis will be supported to take part in all College activities with appropriate medical care provided in the event of an emergency.

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive reaction to an allergen that is potentially life-threatening. The most common allergens are foods containing peanuts, nuts, eggs, dairy products, and seafood. The reactions can occur because of ingestion but can also occur from smelling or touching something with traces of the allergen. Other allergens can be latex, certain insect bites/stings and medication.

It is essential that all staff members are made aware of those students who have been diagnosed at risk, what the triggers are for the children and how to minimise those triggers. Effective communication between parents and staff is essential in developing any individual management plan.

Purpose

We aim to minimise the risk of an anaphylactic reaction occurring at Mid North Christian College by implementing risk minimisation strategies and ensuring all staff members are adequately trained to respond appropriately and competently to an anaphylactic reaction. We also aim to ensure that the risk of children with known allergies coming into contact with allergens is eliminated or minimised.

Scope

This policy applies to children, families, staff and visitors to the College.

Responsibilities

College Management are responsible for:

- Ensuring all staff are up to date with anaphylaxis training and accreditation, including familiarisation with the College's Allergies and Anaphylaxis procedure.
- Providing sufficient numbers of general use adrenaline autoinjector for College use
- Ensuring the College is 'Allergy Aware' by providing information to students, staff and families via the College website, newsletters and notices as required
- Gathering important medical information during the interview process from prospective families including known allergies and previous history of anaphylaxis

Student Services Officer is responsible for:

- Distributing a relevant Action Plan and Medication Authority to new families to be completed and signed by their General Practitioner
- Liaising with newly enrolled families who have identified their child as having severe allergy/anaphylaxis to develop an interim Action Plan until they can return a completed and signed form from their GP
- Ensuring all Action Plans for anaphylaxis are up-to-date and displayed in appropriate areas where all staff can see them, including relief staff

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- Collecting and holding in safe storage, all EpiPens where any staff member can access them but where they are out of reach of students
- Liaising with parents/caregivers about the student's anaphylaxis and/or any concerns as well as any changes to diagnosis or allergy information
- Distributing up-to-date anaphylaxis information to families, students and staff as required
- Ensuring that the adrenaline autoinjector and a copy of the Action Plan for each student at risk of anaphylaxis is carried by a staff member accompanying the student during excursions and camps
- Communicate any relevant information regarding the student's allergy to relevant parties including volunteers, pre-service teaching students, excursion/camp instructors, relief staff etc
- Ensuring that, in the event of an anaphylactic reaction the College's first aid and emergency management response procedures and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis/Asthma Action Plan are followed
- Developing and regularly reviewing Anaphylaxis Individual Care Plans
- Ensuring there are general use adrenaline autoinjector on buses and in the First Aid room in the case of an emergency and as a backup.
- Completing an Annual Anaphylaxis Risk Assessment Checklist

Parents/Caregivers are responsible for:

- Notifying the College if their child or young person has anaphylaxis or severe allergies
- Supplying a completed Anaphylaxis Care Plan signed by their child's doctor containing known triggers and a review date for the plan
- Supplying the College with an adrenaline autoinjector prescribed from the doctor with the student's details on the medication
- Informing the College of any changes or updates to their child's diagnosis and management plan, including any new triggers
- Providing suitable alternatives for class celebrations such as birthdays
- Educating their child about their allergies and how to reduce the risk of exposure

References:

Anaphylaxis and severe allergies/asthma: https://www.education.sa.gov.au/
Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA)/online training: https://www.allergy.org.au/
Management of anaphylaxis: https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/
Disability Inclusion Act (SA) 2018: https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/

END OF POLICY

Authorisation

Other documents needed for policy: Anaphylaxis Risk Assessment
Other policies linked to this policy: Allergy and Anaphylaxis Procedure, Student Medication at School Policy, First Aid Procedures
Who does this policy relate to: Staff/Students/Parents
Policy Reviewer: Principal Rachel Richardson
Department Approval: CLT
Board Approval Required: Yes
New or Revised Policy: Revised
Approved Date of Policy: May, 2023
Next review date: January, 2025
Last updated: 17/3/23