



GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ALLERGENS AND ALLERGIC REACTIONS

Purpose:

Food and environmental allergies are becoming increasingly common and can affect students to various extents from a mild reaction to anaphylaxis which can be life threatening. Common allergens that can trigger an allergic reaction include, foods containing nuts, shellfish, milk and eggs; insect stings; medications; and latex (gloves, balloons, swimming caps). Allergic reactions can take place in the classroom and also in the playground, sporting field or at an excursion where identification and treatment may be difficult.

The Allergen and Allergic Reaction Guidelines provide information and instruction for the Marymount staff to ensure that any students with known allergies are managed appropriately and students who may experience a first time allergic reaction are treated without delay.

It is not possible for the College to exclude all known allergens including food items however, where it is identified that a student may suffer a severe allergic reaction from an allergen, every effort will be made to ensure that the student is not exposed.

Guidelines:

Management of students with identified allergies

- Parents/Caregivers are required to disclose to the College details of any student who may suffer an allergic reaction to any food, substance or environmental trigger.
- A Medical Management Plan and Emergency Response Plan must be provided by the students treating doctor providing detailed instruction to the College on the allergen, allergic reaction, medication and treatment protocols.
- The student will be identified in the eMinerva database with a Medical Alert and details of the student and allergen provided to all staff including the school tuckshop.
- Medication for the treatment of an allergic reaction will be provided by the student's parents/caregivers and held in Sick Bay by a First Aid Officer. Comprehensive instructions regarding administration will be kept with the medication. Medication including Adrenaline Auto-Injectors must be checked annually to ensure that the medication is not out of date.
- It is recommended that any student who may suffer a severe reaction to an allergen wears a Medical Alert bracelet containing details of the allergen and emergency response.
- Parents/Caregivers are required to educate their child to be responsible for their own health and to not knowingly expose themselves to an allergen. This includes consuming food where the ingredients are not known.
- Student with severe allergies to food products must bring all food items for consumption from home and not consume any food products sold in the Tuckshop or prepared in Food Technology or the Home Economics areas.
- Where appropriate and approved by the student's parents/caregivers as well as the treating doctor, a student may carry their own medication to be self-administered as soon as the symptoms of an allergic

reaction are felt. The student's teacher must be notified immediately should this be necessary and the student taken to Sick Bay without delay.

- Where appropriate or necessary, the classmates and friendship group of a student who may suffer a severe allergic reaction to an allergen, will be advised of the allergy and how to recognise symptoms.
- In the event of the student suffering a severe allergic reaction, the Emergency Responses Plan will be followed without delay and an ambulance called.
- In the event of a minor allergic reaction, the Emergency Response Plan will be followed and the student's Parent/Caregiver notified for further direction.
- The College First Aid Officer will hold a supply of Adrenaline Auto Injectors to be used in an emergency (By authority of the Delegate of the Chief Executive, Queensland Health Department).

Staff Training:

- All staff are to receive annual first aid training including anaphylaxis training and the use of an Adrenaline Auto-Injector.
- The School First Aid Officers will be deployed to administer assistance to any student suffering from a severe allergic reaction if the student is not able to be transported to Sick Bay in the Administration Block.
- A supply of Adrenaline Auto Injectors including the ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis Poster are to be kept in Sick Bay.

School Environment:

- Food Technology, Food and Nutrition and Hospitality classes do not include peanuts or peanut based ingredients in cooking/food preparation classes.
- Food Technology, Food and Nutrition and Hospitality staff assess the use of other nuts or shell fish ingredients in cooking/food preparation classes based on known allergy risks within each class group. If a known allergy is identified an assessment is made and the particular allergen is not made available for that student or class group, as determined on a case by case basis.
- Grounds and surrounds are well maintained to prevent infestation or nest building of biting insects. Low flowering and native plants have been planted to lessen the exposure of students to bees and bee stings.

Emergency Planning:

The ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis is used as the emergency action plan for identifying and responding to an allergic reaction. Staff communication is essential in the early treatment of a student suffering from an allergic reaction so each staff member must be alert to their individual role in an emergency. The College First Aid Officers will manage medical emergencies at the College including contact with emergency services.

In the event of an emergency at an external venue, the teacher in charge will contact the ambulance immediately and seek further direction from the College. Students with known severe allergies taking part in activities at an external venue will be identified and their medication included in the First Aid Kit.

Reference:

ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis

OH&S Fact Sheet Information on anaphylaxis for school staff

QCEC Circular No. 2013/179

Qld Health Approval Under Section 18 (1) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulations 1996 – Obtain and administer Adrenaline auto-injector.