	Policy Name:	Anaphylaxis Management	Date of approval:	2008
	Responsible:	Principal	Review date:	2011

1. **Rationale:**


- 1.1 Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common allergens in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication.
- 1.2 The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of those students who have been diagnosed at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens), and prevention of exposure to these triggers. Partnerships between schools and parents are important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from the student while at school.
- 1.3 Adrenaline given through an EpiPen auto injector to the muscle of the outer mid thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

2. **Aims:**

- 2.1 To provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the student's schooling.
- 2.2 To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy in the school community.
- 2.3 To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student.
- 2.4 To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

3. **Implementation:**

- 3.1 The Principal is responsible for the implementation of the Anaphylaxis Management Policy. The Principal is responsible for ensuring that an individual anaphylaxis management plan is developed, in consultation with the student's parents, for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis.
- 3.2 The Anaphylaxis Management Policy will be implemented using the following documents: Ministerial Order 90 (2008), Victorian Anaphylaxis Guidelines (2008), Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans, and the website:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/health/anaphylaxis.htm>.
- 3.3 The student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be reviewed annually, and as applicable, if the student's condition changes, or immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school. All staff will be briefed each semester, or as required, on our Anaphylaxis Management Policy, causes, symptoms and treatment of Anaphylaxis, identities of students at risk and where medication is located, how to use an EpiPen and the school's first aid and emergency response procedures.
- 3.4 Support personnel such as First Aid trainers, EpiPen trainers, and Royal Children's Hospital staff will be used to keep staff up to date with Anaphylaxis management as required.
- 3.5 An Individual Management Plan will be developed for any student at risk of Anaphylaxis. This plan sets out the following:
 - (i) Information about the diagnosis, including the type of allergy or allergies the student has (based on a diagnosis from a medical practitioner).

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- (ii) Strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of school staff, for in-school and out of school settings including camps and excursions.
- (iii) The name of the person/s responsible for implementing the strategies.
- (iv) Information on where the student's medication will be stored.
- (v) The student's emergency contact details.
- (vi) An emergency procedures plan, provided by the parent, that:
 - sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction;
 - is signed by a medical practitioner who was treating the child on the date the practitioner signs the emergency procedures plan; and
 - includes an up to date photograph of the student.

This will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls. A template for an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan can be found at the reference below. It is the responsibility of the parent to provide the emergency procedures plan, to inform the school if their child's medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated emergency procedures plan. A Communication Plan will be in place to ensure that all staff are provided with information about Anaphylaxis and the school's Management Policy. This will include information about what steps will be taken to respond to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in a classroom, in the school yard, on school excursions, on camps and special event days. Volunteers and Casual Relief staff of student at risk of anaphylaxis will be informed of students at risk.

3.6 The Anaphylaxis Management Policy supports the Student Welfare Policy at Tyabb Primary School.

3.7 Individual Management Plans, Student Emergency Contact details and EpiPens will be stored in the First Aid room, and classrooms as required.

4. Evaluation:

- 4.1 The Anaphylaxis Management Policy will be evaluated every three years, or as directed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. It will be evaluated using the Victorian Anaphylaxis Guidelines.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/health/anaphylaxis.htm>