PURPOSE:
To support the health of students at risk of severe and sudden allergic reactions by minimising the risks associated with anaphylactic shock through the implementation of controls, improvement of knowledge, awareness and planning.

SCHOOL POLICY:
The College has adopted a Risk Minimisation Policy rather than a blanket ban on particular foods. This is based on advice provided by the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy Inc (ASCIA) which indicates that:

- School aged children should be given the opportunity to develop their own strategies for avoidance in the wider community as well as at school
- Blanket food bans may increase the risk of complacency and avoidance strategies

Under the school’s Risk Minimisation Policy the following steps have been taken:

- The school canteen has implemented a risk minimisation policy which involves the removal of items with any nut as an ingredient but does not apply to those foods labelled “may contain traces of nuts”.
- Parents are asked not to send peanuts or peanut butter on sandwiches if a class member in the primary school has a peanut allergy. This is due to the higher risk of person to person contact in younger children. It is expected that secondary school students have a greater level of independence in managing their condition and require less external support.
- The Primary students are discouraged from sharing food from lunch boxes.
- Hand washing before and after eating is promoted in the primary school. Adults who have consumed nut products are to ensure they wash their hands before being in the company of students.
- On school camps where there are children with severe nut allergy it is requested that foods containing nuts are not taken or supplied, consistent with the risk minimization policy in the school canteen.
PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:
Students who have been diagnosed as being potentially anaphylactic in response to any allergen or circumstance must be identified at the time of enrolment with any allergy details recorded on the enrolment form.

Parents/carers are required to continue to inform the College if their child is at risk of anaphylaxis by:

Completing the Confirmation of Student Details form contains upon the student’s commencement at Sacred Heart College and updating the form at the start of each school year.

Completing an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan and updating these details as required and reviewing the Plan at the start of each school year.

Providing the school with the prescribed medication & instructions on when and how

To supply the child’s EpiPen to the school and to replace it before it expires

Instructing children with food related allergies of the danger of sharing food

SCHOOL / COLLEGE RESPONSIBILITY:

To work with families to share information and clarify expectations

To make every reasonable effort to minimise the exposure of students at risk of an allergic reaction to known allergens within the school environment

Emergency response strategy is developed and implemented

Ensure all staff involved in the care of students at risk of anaphylaxis are aware
- the identities of students who are at risk of anaphylaxis
- the causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis
- the preventative practices that are in place
- where EpiPens are kept for each individual student
- the school’s first aid and emergency response procedures
- their role in responding to a severe allergic reaction

Training of relevant staff in anaphylaxis emergency management including administration of EpiPens … organised each year.

Copies of individual action plans will be displayed in various and key locations about the school including the staff room and the school office of both the primary and secondary schools.

Ensure relevant relief staff are briefed on any students in their care who are at risk of anaphylaxis and the steps required for prevention and emergency response.

Staff will undertake a risk assessment for any activity where there is potential for exposure to an allergen (eg nuts, eggs, fish) or circumstance (eg bees stings, bull ants/jack jumpers). The
risk assessment will involve:

The identification of students who are at risk of anaphylaxis

A review of the student’s action plan

An assessment of the risk and identification of appropriate controls to be implemented ie elimination, substitution

First aid officer or office staff member should check EpiPen’s for any approaching expiry dates and contact families if replacements are required.

Action plans for anaphylaxis and individual action plans are reviewed each year

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