

ALLERGIES POLICY

DEFINITION

An Allergy occurs when a person's immune system reacts to substances in the environment that are harmless for most people. These substances are known as allergens and are found in foods, insects, some medicines, house dust mites, pets, and pollen.

Common allergens include:

- peanuts
- tree nuts such as cashews
- eggs
- cow's milk
- wheat
- soy
- fish and shellfish
- sesame
- insect stings and bites
- medications.

Signs of a mild to moderate allergic reaction include:

- hives or welts
- swelling of the lips, face and eyes
- tingling mouth.

Signs of anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction) include **any one** of the following:

- difficult/noisy breathing
- swelling of tongue
- swelling/tightness in throat
- difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice
- wheeze or persistent cough
- persistent dizziness or collapse
- pale and floppy (young children)
- abdominal pain and/or vomiting (these are signs of a severe allergic reaction to insects).

Mild to moderate allergic reactions (such as hives or swelling) may not always occur before anaphylaxis.

If a student appears to be having a severe allergic reaction, but has not been previously diagnosed with an allergy or being at risk of anaphylaxis, the school staff should follow the school's anaphylaxis first aid procedures and administer an adrenaline autoinjector for general use.

RATIONALE

- Toolangi PS is able to manage students with mild to moderate allergies, who have a green ASCIA Action Plan.
- To provide, as far as practicable, a well-informed, safe and supportive environment in which students with allergies can participate equally in all aspects of schooling.

IMPLEMENTATION

Toolangi PS will

- develop and review an Individual Allergic Reactions Management Plan for each student with allergies in conjunction with their parents/guardian
- develop prevention strategies to be used by the school to minimise the risk of an allergic reaction
- develop a communication plan to inform relevant staff, students and members of the school community about students with allergies and how they will be managed
- meet with parents or guardians about medication and responding appropriately to an allergic reaction
- establish and review first aid response procedures for all in-school and out-of-school environments such as excursions and camps
- review each student's Individual Allergic Reactions Management Plan immediately prior to any excursion or camp in which the student is participating with the teacher in charge and any other relevant persons.

STRATEGIES

Students diagnosed with food, insect or medication allergies should be given an ASCIA Action Plan for Allergic Reactions (green) by their medical practitioner. **This table describes how we manage students with an allergy.**

- **ASCIA Action Plan for Allergic Reactions**

An ASCIA Action Plan for Allergic Reactions (green plan) should be completed by the student's medical practitioner and a colour copy provided to the school by the student's parents or guardians.

The ASCIA Action Plan for Allergic Reactions (green plan) outlines the student's known mild to moderate food, insect or medication allergies and the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction.

There will be an individual plan for students with allergies that includes emergency responses for all in school and out of school activities including school camps.

- **Staff Response**

All school staff with a duty of care responsibility for the wellbeing of students with confirmed allergy need to recognise and respond to an allergic reaction. They should be aware of their student's Individual Allergic Reactions Management Plans and consult

with parents or guardians regarding in-school and out-of-school activities that may pose a risk to the student.

- **Communicating with parents or guardians**

Regularly communicate with the student's parents or guardians about the student's successes, development, changes and any health and education concerns

This policy will be revised during the life of the Schools Strategic Plan; 2013 - 2017