ANAPHYLAXIS

Rationale:
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. Reactions usually begin within minutes of exposure and can progress rapidly. Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and always requires an emergency response. 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.

Developing partnerships between the school and parents is important to assist with the implementation of this policy. In order for the school to effectively manage anaphylactic reactions in children at risk, the following steps need to be considered:
- Obtaining medical information about children at risk;
- Education of those responsible for the care of children at risk;
- Implementation of practical strategies to avoid exposure to known triggers;
- Age appropriate education for children with severe allergies.

Adrenaline given through an EpiPen to the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the most widely recognised and effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

Aims:
- To ensure all staff members receive yearly updates and three yearly re-training.
- 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.
- To give information to staff and parents as to the management of Anaphylaxis at school.
- To minimise the likelihood of an anaphylactic reaction
- 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.
- To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school’s anaphylaxis management policy in the school community.
- To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student.

Implementation:
- Note: A template of an individual anaphylaxis management plan can be found on Page 18 Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Victorian Government Schools or the Department’s website: http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/wellbeing/support/anaphyl.htm
- The Principal will ensure that an individual 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.
- The individual anaphylaxis management plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls, and where possible before their first day of school.
- The individual anaphylaxis management plan will set out information about the diagnosis, including:
  - the type of allergy or allergies the student has (based on a diagnosis from a medical practitioner),
  - 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. (Note: Appendix 2 (pp 21 – 23) of the Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Victorian Government Schools contains advice about a range of prevention strategies that can be put in place.
  - the name of the person/s responsible for implementing the strategies,
  - information on where the student’s medication will be stored.
- the student’s emergency contact details.

- The school requires an Emergency Procedures Plan (ASCIA Action 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.

- Note: The red and blue ‘ASCIA Action Plan’ is the most common form of emergency procedures plan that is provided by medical practitioners to parents when a child is diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis.

- The student’s individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student’s parents/ carers:
  - annually, and as applicable,
  - if the student’s condition changes, or
  - immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school.

- It is the responsibility of the parent to:
  - provide the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).
  - inform the school if their child’s medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).
  - provide an up to date photo for the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) when the plan is provided to the school and when it is reviewed.

- COMMUNICATION PLAN
  - Note: Page 15 of the Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Victorian Government Schools has advice about strategies to raise staff and student awareness, working with parents/carers and engaging the broader school community.
  - The Principal will be responsible for ensuring that a communication plan is developed to provide information to all staff, students and parents about anaphylaxis and the school’s anaphylaxis management policy.
  - The communication plan 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 school camps and special event days.

- It is the responsibility of parents to notify the school that their child is at risk of an anaphylactic reaction either at time of enrolment or as soon after diagnosis as possible;

- An Anaphylaxis Action Plan will be developed at the earliest time following enrolment;

- Volunteers and casual relief staff of students at risk of anaphylaxis will be informed students at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in their care by (insert staff members name)

- All staff will be briefed annually on school procedures, including:
  - the school’s anaphylaxis management policy
  - the identities of students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis and where their medication is located
  - the school’s first aid and emergency response procedures

- STAFF TRAINING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE
  - All staff will complete formal Anaphylaxis training (annual update, three yearly re-training)
  - While the student is under the care or supervision of the school, including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days, the Principal must ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff present who have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.

- The school’s first aid procedures and student’s emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

- Parents or guardians of children at risk of anaphylaxis are required to provide the school with an ASCIA Anaphylaxis Action plan signed by the family GP or Allergy Specialist;
  - The Action Plan will have information on:
    - the student’s allergy;
    - triggers to be avoided;
- parent’s contact details;
- a school photo of the student;
- instructions on medication the student requires in relation to their anaphylactic condition such as an Epi pen, Antihistamines or Ventolin; and
- emergency instructions.

- Emergency Action plans are required by the school to be updated yearly or as required by changes noted by the student’s GP or Specialist
- Copies of the Action Plan will be given to the class teacher to be placed in the classroom;
- Copies of student’s Action Plans will also be displayed in the Sick Bay and the Staff Room
- Relevant staff will meet with the parents of at risk students to conduct an assessment of potential exposure to allergens in the student’s routine and classroom environment, and to develop appropriate strategies to ensure the student’s safety;
- Relevant teachers will consult with the parents of at risk students prior to excursions, camps and any Festival days held by the school to minimise any potential risks;
- In the case of students at risk attending Camp, the school staff will liaise with the campsite personnel to ensure that adequate precautions and safety measures are in place to minimise potential risk. Parents may provide their own food for the student to take to camp;
- All staff at the school, including casual relief teachers, will be made familiar with the details of students who may be at risk of an anaphylactic reaction, and the appropriate emergency response;
- General Anaphylaxis Plans will be displayed throughout the school;
- The school will ensure that Anaphylaxis Accreditation training which is current for three years will be available for relevant staff by qualified professionals such as St. John. (Government Ministerial Orders’90);
- Twice yearly updates and briefings on Anaphylaxis, the causes, signs and symptoms and the role of staff in the school’s emergency response procedures, be given to all staff by the school’s First Aid Officer;
- The school will communicate with the staff, students and school community via the school’s newsletter, articles, posters and fund raising activities to raise awareness about Anaphylaxis and severe allergies;
- Parents will be informed if their child is in the same class as a student at risk of a severe allergic reaction and of the relevant classroom strategies to be employed to ensure the wellbeing of the student concerned;
- Students at risk of anaphylaxis will not be isolated or excluded from any activity within reason.
- Teachers of students at risk will have an Epipen Card in their classrooms;
- An Anaphylaxis response kit which contains Junior and Senior Epipens will be kept in sickbay and easily accessible in the event of an anaphylaxis emergency;
- In the event of a student having an anaphylactic reaction the school’s anaphylaxis emergency procedure will be followed including the instructions on the student’s ASCIA plan. The student will be transported to hospital via Ambulance;
- Students at risk should only eat food which has been provided by their parents or guardians.
- Students will be responsible for:
  - Knowing which foods or allergens can cause them an allergic reaction;
  - Abiding by the school’s ‘no sharing of food’ recommendation; and
  - Washing hands before and after eating.
- The storage and use of the Epipen
- If an Epipen is required by a student, it will be stored safely but easily accessible in the classroom and the first aid room; Epipens are to be kept in a container with the students Action plan and any other medication required for the management of a potential or actual anaphylactic reaction;
- The Epipen should be stored at room temperature and out of direct sunlight;
- The Epipen will be clearly labelled with the student’s name. It must be kept in the original pharmacy dispensed packaging;
- A record will be kept of the expiry dates of all Epipens in the school including student’s own and parents informed in advance of when the Epipen needs to be renewed;
• This policy will also apply to any other medication required in the management of the students anaphylactic condition; and
• Senior and Junior generic Epipens will be kept in sickbay in the Emergency Response kit and provided by the school for use on excursions and school camps.

Review Date:
This policy has a four year life and will be reviewed by Moriac Primary School Council in 2019