



CRONULLA SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Risk Management Policy For Severe Allergy Students Anaphylactic Reaction

Dear Parents

It is important that school provide the safest possible learning environment for all students. Recently, the Department of Education and Training released a policy statement in this area in conjunction with the Health Department, due to the increasing number of children with severe and sudden allergic reactions.

It is probably difficult for people who do not suffer from major allergies to comprehend the daily precautions that people who are highly allergic to such things as insect stings, medications and foods (such as dairy foods, shellfish or peanuts) have to take to maintain their health, and in some cases, protect their lives.

Naturally, students and their parents do everything they can to minimise the risk of suffering allergic reactions. They are very dependent, however, on schools and their communities to assist in this respect.

What can we do to help these children?

The Canteen

It is probably impossible to remove all food from the canteen that contains allergens. In the case of peanuts it is particularly difficult, as peanuts are a common ingredient in many foods. However, according to parents of peanut allergy sufferers, this is not of critical importance because they instruct their children not to purchase at the canteen, or only to purchase certain foods that have been checked.

Peanut butter and Nutella, however, are particularly dangerous in the school for peanut allergy sufferers, as they are very concentrated and in some cases even the smell can cause a reaction. Also because of the stickiness of peanut butter and Nutella even minute amounts smeared on desks, walls, toys, sports equipment, bubblers or clothing can pose an invisible but dangerous threat.

Parents, Teachers and Students

Many school communities with students suffering severe peanut related allergies have elected to withdraw peanut butter and Nutella as a family food on school days. They don't even have it for breakfast as it can be transported to school on hands or clothing. This is the approach that we would like to take at Cronulla South Public School.

The other thing we need to do, not just because of peanut allergies, is to encourage children not to share food, due to the transmission of diseases. This is something we would appreciate you discussing further with your children.

As a school we have attempted to implement a peanut butter and Nutella free school. This means that we request that you not send these products on sandwiches, or, in the case of Nutella, in sachet form.

Attached is a school policy statement for you to read, it covers the role of the school, staff, allergy students' parents and the community. If you have any concerns or questions, or if your child suffers from a severe allergy about which we are unaware, please contact the Principal.

Thank you for your assistance in keeping our school a safe environment for all students.

Greg Fitzgerald
Principal

Risk Management Policy For Severe Allergy Students Anaphylactic Reaction

(A severe and rapidly progressive allergic reaction that can be life threatening unless treated immediately.)

Cronulla South Public School endeavours to provide a learning environment that is safe for all students allowing them to participate in all activities without risk or fear of being exposed to traces of their allergen. In doing so, the following points need to be followed.

Parents of Severe Allergy Students

Will be requested to:

- Notify the school if their child is at risk of an anaphylactic reaction, either at the time of enrolment or as soon after diagnosis as possible
- Provide a written report from their medical practitioner
- Develop an Individual Health Care Plan in partnership with the school, including an agreed emergency response strategy, emergency contacts and a plan for avoidance of known triggers.
- Review the Individual Health Care Plan annually, at the beginning of each year, in conjunction with the school
- Advise of any changes in the student's health or other factors that might affect the plan
- Replace the Epi-Pen when it expires or after it is used
- Provide their child with special "event" foods when necessary eg. class-birthdays and classroom treats; and
- Advise their children regarding suitable canteen purchases.

The School

Will:

- Develop with the child's parents an Individual Health Care Plan, which is readily accessible
- Educate all regular staff in emergency first aid in relation to an anaphylactic reaction, including the use of an Epi-Pen
- Apply agreed emergency procedures if necessary
- Advise casual staff and others having contact with the student of their condition
- Store the child's medication in an appropriate position in the school office, with clear labelling
- Display a current photo of the child in prominent positions around the school and in the casual teacher's folder
- Maintain regular contact with the student's parents and revise procedures where necessary; and
- Provide regular health reminders to the community.

The Canteen

Will be requested to:

- Display a highly visible and current photo of the students with details of their allergies
- Not serve peanut butter or Nutella; and
- Continue its policy of carefully screening all new products, and provide exemplary hygiene procedures in relation to food preparation areas and utensils.

The School Community

Will be requested to:

- Not provide their children with peanut butter or Nutella products; and
- Advise their children not to share foods with others and about good general hygiene practices (eg. washing their hands before and after eating).

The Students

Will be requested to:

- Wash their hands after eating and carefully dispose of foodstuffs in nearby bins; and
- Not share food with others.
- Should a student come to school with allergen materials, either they will be asked to move with some friends to a less contactable area (if applicable) and instructed to place wrappings in the bin, and to wash their hands carefully or the student at risk will be asked to move with some friends to a less contactable area (if applicable) Thank you for your assistance in keeping our school a safe environment for all children.