



The Priory School, Hitchin

Supporting children with anaphylaxis

Background

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. There are students at The Priory School who suffer from allergies and are at risk of anaphylaxis.

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 and certain insect stings** (particularly **bee stings**).

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of the student who has been diagnosed as at risk, awareness of allergens, and prevention of exposure to those allergens.

Partnerships between schools and parents/carers are important in helping the student avoid exposure. Adrenaline given through an adrenaline auto injector (such as an EpiPen, Jext or Emerade) into the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

Purpose

- 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/guidelines in the school community.
- To engage with parents/carers of each student at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies for the student.
- To ensure that staff have knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and know how to respond to an anaphylactic reaction.

Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plans

At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions on their Essential Details Form. As soon as the school is made aware of a new student with anaphylaxis, or a current student with a new diagnosis, we will contact the parents/carers before the start of term or at the time of diagnosis.

The school will ensure that an Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan (IAHCP) is developed in consultation with the student's parents/carers, for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis. The IAHCP will be in place as soon as practicable after the student is enrolled and where possible before their first day of school.

The student's IAHCP will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/carers:

- as applicable, or upon parental update.
- if the student's condition changes.
- immediately after the student has an anaphylactic reaction.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to:

- provide a completed Anaphylaxis Action Plan.
- inform the school if their child's medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated Anaphylaxis Action Plan.

Communication

Key members of staff will be informed of a child's allergies and IAHCP. This information will be stored on the school's MIS system so that every member of staff will be able to familiarise themselves with a child's needs, and the appropriate support required. This information will also be shared with specific colleagues, e.g. trip leaders and PE staff prior to departure or regular fixtures.

Staff training and emergency response

Key staff are made aware of any students with anaphylaxis or those who have received a recent diagnosis and are reminded of the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, and also how to treat this.

If a student thinks they may be having anaphylaxis then a first aider must be called to the student. We will also call 999. Teachers and other school staff, who have contact with the student at risk of anaphylaxis, are encouraged to undertake training in anaphylaxis management including how to respond in an emergency.

The school's first aid procedures and student's IAHCP will be followed when responding to an anaphylactic reaction, including administering antihistamine, or adrenaline. Staff are aware that sometimes additional shots of adrenaline may be required.

In order to support children with allergies to effectively manage day-to-day life (as they will need to do when they become an independent adult), we encourage all students to carry their own autoinjector and ensure that it is in their possession at all times. Spare autoinjectors are held in school.

The school café will ensure that allergens are made clear on food cooked on-site. Any food purchased externally will include ingredient lists. Students are also encouraged to ask about ingredients should they be unsure.

School Trips

On school trips, the trip leader is responsible for liaising with the school administration team over necessary procedures regarding children suffering from severe allergies. Going on trips should not cause any real problems for students with anaphylaxis. They need to remember to take their auto injector with them plus the spare device held either by the school or at home.