



ALLERGY MANAGEMENT POLICY

Aim:	This policy is concerned with the whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of the College community that are susceptible to specific allergies.
Scope and Responsibilities:	This policy applies to employees, volunteers, parents/carers/students and people visiting the College. The Head of College oversees its implementation.
Board Approval:	Not Required
Background information:	<p>It is essential that everyone in our community plays a role in supporting those students and their families who experience severe reactions to allergies.</p> <p>The College position is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment, rather to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.</p> <p>The College is committed to proactive risk allergy management through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the encouragement of self-responsibility and learned avoidance strategies amongst students suffering allergies • provision of a rigorous staff education / training programme on anaphylaxis, • the establishment and documentation of a comprehensive management plan for the management of special student health needs. • the establishment of specific risk exposure minimisation practices and strategies wherever required within the College operations. • close liaison with parents of students who suffer allergies • a focus on the development of a sensitive and caring compassionate community, including regular newsletter communication with parents seeking support of the College approach. <p>This management approach is congruent with contemporary specialist medical advice, and the College believes educating students to self-manage their condition is a skill attuned to their 'real world' situation.</p>
Definitions:	<p>"Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (such as food or an insect bite)."</p> <p>Food (and other) allergies can be life threatening as they may</p>



ALLERGY MANAGEMENT POLICY

cause a reaction called anaphylaxis. Common allergens for anaphylaxis are:

- Food (peanuts and nuts, shellfish and fish, milk, eggs, wheat products)
- Insect bites (bees, wasps, jumper ants)
- Medications (antibiotics, aspirin)
- Latex (rubber gloves, balloons, swimming caps)

Although death is rare, an anaphylactic reaction always requires an emergency response.

Symptoms of anaphylaxis are reversed by treatment with injectable epinephrine, antihistamines, and other emergency measures. It is essential that anyone with symptoms suggesting possible anaphylaxis get emergency treatment immediately.

Policy:

The College recognises that a number of community members (students and staff) suffer from potentially life threatening allergies to certain foods or toxins from insects. The College seeks parent, staff and contractor support towards maintaining a minimised risk environment, whilst also concentrating on ensuring effective medical response to potential anaphylactic episodes.

The intent of this policy is to minimise the risk of any student suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at school or attending any school related activity, and to ensure staff are properly prepared to manage such emergency situations should they arise.

The common causes of allergies relevant to this policy are nuts, (in particular peanuts), dairy products, eggs, wasps, bees and ants. The allergy to nuts is the most common high risk allergy, and as such demands more rigorous controls throughout the policy than the controls for allergies to dairy products, eggs and wasps, bees and ants.

The College is also aware of the stresses imposed on parents, teachers and carers, with the potential for anaphylactic reaction in children for whom they have a responsibility. To this end, the provision of procedures and systems to effectively manage such stress is also an aim of this policy. This policy is to be read in conjunction with *Allergy Management Procedures*.



ALLERGY MANAGEMENT POLICY

The underlying principles of the College policy include:

- the pro-active establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise student, staff, parents' and visitors' exposure to known trigger foods and insects
- staff training and education to ensure an effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation
- a rigorous, but age-appropriate student education program on allergy awareness and self-responsibility.

Key Strategies

General aspects

- The establishment of clear procedures and responsibilities (*Allergy Management Procedures*) to be followed by staff and management in meeting the needs of students with additional medical needs.
- The requirement that parents provide regular, accurate and current medical information in writing to the College pertaining to allergies of their child attending the College.
- The involvement of parents, staff, and the student in establishing individual Student *Action Plans*. Parents are strongly encouraged to obtain an ASCIA Action Plan from their GP and provide this to the College.
- The establishment and maintenance of a Management System for effectively communicating individual student medical plans to all relevant teachers, teacher aides, and coaches.
- The incorporation of allergy management strategies into the risk assessments for all College events, excursions and sporting activities.
- Staff training in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- Age appropriate education of the children with the severe food allergies.
- Parents requested to carefully consider eliminating allergenic food stuffs from their child's lunch boxes and for celebratory events.
- The inclusion of allergic students into all school activities provided such inclusion does not constitute an unacceptable risk. However, a student who has been prescribed an Epipen will not be permitted to attend the school or take part in any school activity without providing an Epipen and without an *Action Plan* being established.
- An emphasis on the importance of reacting rapidly to a



ALLERGY MANAGEMENT POLICY

suspected allergic reaction, even when initial symptoms are not severe.

Nut related Aspects.

- The Tuckshop, Leos Club, parent support groups and outside caterers are all to be made aware of the risk minimisation policy and requested to eliminate nuts and food items with nuts as ingredient from their operations.

This does not extend to those foods labelled “*may contain traces of nuts*”. Parental responsibility to build self-management skills within their allergy suffering children is promoted by the College.

- Age appropriate education of the children with the severe nut allergies.

Dairy and Egg related Aspects.

- Students with dairy product or egg allergies are managed by the College in consultation with the parents on a case by case basis.
- Age appropriate education of the children with the severe dairy/egg allergies.

Insect related Aspects.

- Diligent management of wasp and ant nests on campus. This must include the effective system for staff reporting to management, and a system of timely response for eradicating nests.
- Education of students to report any above normal presence of bees in play areas.
- Age appropriate education of the children with the severe insect allergies.

Related Documentation:

Allergy Management Procedures
Enrolment Medical Details

Legislation Applicable:

Education and Care Services Regulation 2013
Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011



ALLERGY MANAGEMENT POLICY

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION

Document Status

The current status of this document is shown below.

Policy	Allergy Policy
Version	12 May 2014
Issue Date:	
Owner:	Moreton Bay Colleges
Confidentiality	

Document History

The history of changes made to this document is shown below. The most recent changes are listed first.

Version	Date	Summary of Changes
1.0	25/06/2014	First Issue

Approval This document has been approved for publishing by:

Reviewed by	SLT
Authorised by	Head of College

Distribution

Controlled paper copies of this document are distributed as follows:

No.	Issued To

Office Use Only

Version:	25 June 2014
Revision Date:	
Document Owner:	Head of College