

Hallett Cove South Primary School

ALLERGIES AND NUT AWARE SCHOOL POLICY

Context:

We have students in our school with a life-threatening food allergy – anaphylaxis to nuts. This is a medical condition that causes a severe /even fatal reaction to specific foods. These reactions can be triggered by contact, ingestion or inhalation. There can also be a concern in regard to contamination of equipment including play equipment, desks or other classroom materials.

Purpose:

- To raise awareness regarding severe allergies and to provide a safe learning environment for all members of the Hallett Cove South Primary School community.

Management :

The Nut Aware policy will be managed by:

Parents and caregivers (in particular those parents of children in the same class or learning area of the child with the severe allergy) being requested **NOT** to send food to school that contains nuts. This includes peanut paste, nutella, all nuts and cooking oil containing peanut oil, as well as foods containing nuts.

- Students are **NOT permitted** to share food.
- Students are encouraged to wash hands after eating.
- Staff supervising eating at lunchtime. Strategies such as separate eating areas and reinforcement of washing of hands will be implemented when students bring nut containing products to school.
- Staff being made aware of students and staff who have anaphylactic responses, including nut allergies.
- Staff participating in first aid training in understanding and dealing with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) as the need arises.
- School lunch providers complying with the Nut Awareness Policy.
- Parents and caregivers being requested **NOT** to send boxes for crafts that have previously contained nut products, e.g. cereal boxes, muesli bars with nuts, cake boxes, biscuits.

Promotion :

The policy will be promoted by:

- Parents and caregivers being informed via the newsletter and individual class letters as appropriate.
- New families to the school community being informed via the Enrolment Information Package.
- Governing Council being consulted and reviewing the policy.
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities.
- Students being informed via teachers.

** This school acknowledges that due to food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate nuts or nut products entirely from an environment where there is food. Many food packaging labels include the phrase 'may contain traces of nuts'. Foods with packaging labels that contain the phrase 'may contain traces of nuts' are acceptable. Thus our aim is to be a Nut "Aware" School , not a Nut "Free" school.*

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Information for the Hallett Cove South Primary School Community

What is Anaphylactic Shock?

An anaphylactic reaction is a very severe and sometimes life threatening reaction that occurs when some people are exposed to particular products eg peanuts, dairy, eggs, fish and sesame seeds to name a few.

How is Anaphylactic Reaction Treated?

All children who have an anaphylactic reaction have an Emergency Plan that we also use at school to ensure the most effective treatment is provided for any of the children concerned. This will involve administering an adrenaline injection, and/ or giving antihistamine and calling an ambulance.

Why we are a nut aware environment.

We currently have children who have anaphylactic reactions to nuts. These reactions can be triggered by contact, ingestion or inhalation. There is also a concern in regard to contamination of equipment whether this is play equipment, desks or other classroom materials. For example if a child ate a peanut butter or Nutella sandwich and touched the play equipment, a child with a severe allergy, could suffer an anaphylactic reaction from touching the same equipment. The resulting medical emergency could be avoided by minimising exposure to nuts.

Two of the hardest things for parents of a child at risk of anaphylaxis to do are:

- send their child to school and try to allow them to have as normal childhood as possible
- get other people to believe just how real this allergic reaction can be. Often other people believe that parents are over-reacting.

We are requesting that families try to understand this situation and assist us to minimise risk of exposure of these children to nuts by not sending foods to school that contain nuts.

The number of students in schools who suffer from anaphylaxis is increasing and in line with other schools, we are also bringing in nut aware guidelines. We see this as another opportunity to show concern and care for others within our community and enact our 'duty of care' to children.

For more information log onto www.allergy.org.au

What products are identified as presenting a high risk for students with a severe allergy to peanuts?

Please read labels carefully to help keep all of our children safe.

FOOD: Nutella, peanut paste, nuts and any snacks including nuts

PRODUCTS: Any boxes that have previously contained nut products: e.g. cereal boxes, muesli bars with nuts, cakes, biscuits

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