

Anaphylaxis and allergen policy

Kalangadoo Kindergarten is committed to ensuring that children in our care are provided with the best possible care.

This policy is done in accordance with Education and Care Services National Regulations.

The regulations relating to the policy include:

- Regulation 90 –Medical condition Policy
- Regulation 91 – Medical conditions policy to be provided to parents
- Regulation 94 – Authorisation requirements – anaphylaxis or asthma emergency
- Regulation 136 – First Aid Qualification
- Regulation 173 – Prescribed information to be displayed

With children that have an allergy or anaphylaxis reaction to a certain product, every step will be taken to ensure that children are not exposed to that allergen while in the centre.

Kalangadoo Kindergarten will take the following action to reduce this risk.

1. Obtain medical information

The information will be required from the parent on enrolment. This parent will need to provide the ASCIA action plan for allergic reaction/anaphylaxis, which has been completed **by a registered doctor or medical practitioner** and it will include the following information

- Clear identification of the child – photo must be present and updated as needed
- Documentation about the allergic triggers e.g. Is it ingestion of a food allergen or skin contact that is the trigger?
- Documentation of the first aid response including the medication required
- Identification and contact details of the doctor/medical practitioner that signed the document
- Contact numbers, as well as emergency contact persons if parent/carer not able to be contacted
- On enrolment, parents will be asked to sign a consent form that will give the centre permission to display a photo of their child in the room, to enable staff, parents and children using the room, to beware that there is a child that has an anaphylaxis reaction, what their reaction is to, and then the steps that need to be taken to assist the child.
- Every child with an allergen will have an **anaphylaxis/Health care plan**, which is done in conjunction with the staff of Kalangadoo Kindergarten and the enrolling child's family.
- Parents will be responsible for providing the action plan and medication and ensuring that the medication provided has a current expiry date.
- Staff will ensure that the plan is reviewed regularly and always at the time of transition e.g. from kindy to school
- Caregivers will be reminded on an annual basis of this policy to ensure ongoing compliance
- On enrolment, all parents who have discussed and identified that their child has an allergy or anaphylaxis reaction, will be given a copy of this policy to ensure they are provided with all the necessary information, on how the centre will address the issues, and reduce the chances of their child being exposed to the allergen

2. Education of educators

Recognition of the risk and understanding the steps that can be taken to minimise anaphylaxis by all those responsible for the care of children in the centre, are the basis of prevention

In accordance with regulation 136 – Kalangadoo Kindergarten is committed to ensure that all qualified staff in the centre are trained in the '21827VIC – Course in Anaphylaxis Awareness'. Ideally education of all staff on this topic would be the goal and this will be updated every 3 years in accordance with the ACEQA guidelines.

3. Practical strategies to avoid exposure to known triggers

Avoidance of specific triggers is the basis of anaphylaxis prevention. Appropriate avoidance measures are critically on education of children, staff and parents.

Kalangadoo Kindergarten is an egg aware centre. This is displayed on the information board near the office to remind educators and caregivers each day, as a notice that indicates if we currently have any children in the centre with an anaphylaxis reaction.

For children who have an allergen to other products, when this allergen is identified, it will be removed where possible from the centre environment. E.g. – egg carton removed if egg allergy.

When the allergen is environmental, e.g. bee stings – educators will have a 'Bum Bag' that will contain the children's action plan and the Epi-pen/Ana-pen.

Children with an anaphylaxis reaction will not be excluded from any activities that are undertaken within the centres environment, unless directed by the parent, or unless it is going to have a detrimental effect on the child's health. Staff have developed an Anaphylaxis Action Plan (attached)

4. Age appropriate education of children with severe allergies

While Kalangadoo Kindergarten recognises the importance of parents as having the responsibility of teaching children about allergies, the centre recognises that it also has a responsibility to ensure a safe environment of all children in care.

5. Food Policy measures

Kalangadoo Kindergarten will ensure that the following measures take place

- Children with severe allergies will only eat food that is prepared under strict conditions within the kitchen environment by a staff member that has a very clear understanding of the steps that need to be undertaken to ensure the safety of the child.
- Items for the child's use e.g. drink bottles, lunch boxes will be clearly labelled
- The use of food in regard to cooking classes or science experiments will be restricted when a child with an allergen is present.
- Food preparation personnel will be instructed about the measures to prevent cross contamination during the handling, preparation and serving of food.
- Children will not be sharing food with other children.
- Refer to the Nutrition Policy & Procedure for more information.

6. Storage of medication

To ensure the safety of the child, staff will ensure the child's medication is placed in the office on arrival at the centre (unless alternative arrangements are made e.g. a 'bum bag') and is accessible by trained staff at all times.

Medication is not to be stored in the fridge as it is known to have an effect on the medication.

A trained member will carry the medication in the asthma bag when accompanying the child outside of the centre's environment e.g. school visits and excursions.

Exceptions to consent

Kalangadoo Kindergarten is committed to ensuring that children in the centre are cared for in a manner that is safe to all users. The kindergarten acknowledges that it must gain consent from parent/guardian before it is permitted to give medication. We also acknowledge that consent does not need to be obtained from the parent/guardian, if it is deemed to be an emergency. In this case the parent/guardian will be informed as soon as possible after the emergency medication has been administered to the child. Kalangadoo Kindergarten will ensure that the medication record is completed for the parent to fill out and sign as soon as possible after the administration of medication has taken place.

General

- Everyone is encouraged to wash their hands before and after eating
- Food is not given as a reward
- Children do not share or swap food if there are children with anaphylaxis in the group

Policy review

- The service will review the Anaphylaxis / allergy policy
- If any changes are identified and made to this policy, it will be done in conjunction with staff, and any necessary training will be undertaken as a result.
- Families are encouraged to collaborate with the service to review the policy
- Staff are essential in the policy review process and are encouraged to be actively involved.

Policy reviewed 1 February 2018

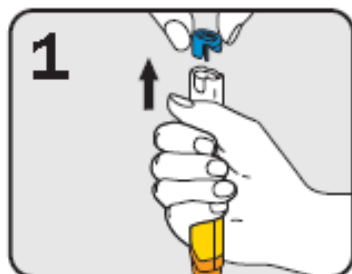
Policy information sourced from

ASCIA Guidelines for Prevention of food anaphylactic reactions in schools, Preschools and Child Care

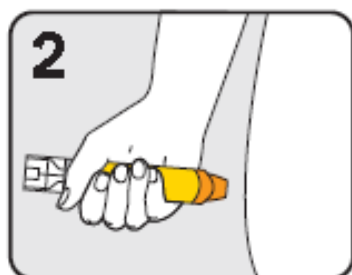
ACTION PLAN FOR Anaphylaxis

For EpiPen® adrenaline (epinephrine) autoinjectors

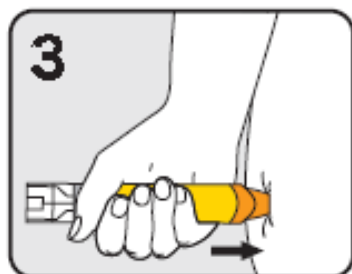
How to give EpiPen®



Form fist around EpiPen® and
PULL OFF BLUE SAFETY RELEASE



Hold leg still and PLACE ORANGE
END against outer mid-thigh
(with or without clothing)



PUSH DOWN HARD until a click is
heard or felt and hold in place for
3 seconds
REMOVE EpiPen®

SIGNS OF MILD TO MODERATE ALLERGIC REACTION

- Swelling of lips, face, eyes
- Hives or welts
- Tingling mouth
- Abdominal pain, vomiting (these are signs of anaphylaxis for insect allergy)

ACTION FOR MILD TO MODERATE ALLERGIC REACTION

- For insect allergy - flick out sting if visible
- For tick allergy - freeze dry tick and allow to drop off
- Stay with person and call for help
- Locate EpiPen® or EpiPen® Jr adrenaline autoinjector
- Phone family/emergency contact

Mild to moderate allergic reactions (such as hives or swelling) may not always occur before anaphylaxis

WATCH FOR ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SIGNS OF ANAPHYLAXIS (SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTION)

- Difficult/noisy breathing
- Swelling of tongue
- Swelling/tightness in throat
- Wheeze or persistent cough
- Difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice
- Persistent dizziness or collapse
- Pale and floppy (young children)

ACTION FOR ANAPHYLAXIS

1 Lay person flat - do NOT allow them to stand or walk

- If unconscious, place in recovery position
- If breathing is difficult allow them to sit



2 Give EpiPen® or EpiPen® Jr adrenaline autoinjector

3 Phone ambulance - 000 (AU) or 111 (NZ)

4 Phone family/emergency contact

5 Further adrenaline doses may be given if no response after 5 minutes

6 Transfer person to hospital for at least 4 hours of observation

If in doubt give adrenaline autoinjector

Commence CPR at any time if person is unresponsive and not breathing normally

EpiPen® is prescribed for children over 20kg and adults. EpiPen® Jr is prescribed for children 10-20kg

All EpiPen®s should be held in place
for 3 seconds regardless of instructions
on device label

ALWAYS give adrenaline autoinjector FIRST, and then asthma reliever puffer if someone with known asthma and allergy

to food, insects or medication has SUDDEN BREATHING DIFFICULTY (including wheeze, persistent cough or hoarse voice) even if there are no skin symptoms