

Rationale

The policy is founded on the belief that DFE requires schools to promote and construct learning environments that are safe and supportive. Students and staff may have anaphylactic (severe allergic) conditions, that include nut allergies. This means that exposure at school may constitute a risk to their health and wellbeing. It is not possible to guarantee that the environment will be completely free of potential hazards due to current food processing practices. The emphasis is therefore on raising awareness and adopting the reasonable procedures termed as 'Allergy and Nut Awareness'.

Aims

- To raise awareness of severe allergies for all members of the school community and show care and concern for others within our community
- To provide a safe school environment for all members of the school community
- To support families of children who send their child to school and try to allow children with severe allergies to feel as safe as possible
- To support students in developing strategies for managing their severe allergy in the wider community as well as at school

Role of the Leadership team

- To inform parents of Clapham Primary School's Allergies and Nut Awareness Policy when they enrol their children
- Ensure school community is regularly informed via newsletters and other correspondence about the Allergies and Nut Awareness Policy
- School Council endorses and supports this policy
- Staff being informed and participate in training opportunities to understand how to deal with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions)
- Raise awareness with staff about suitable food being brought in for morning tea and food available for staff consumption during the day in the staff room
- Ensuring school canteen complies with this policy
- Ensure staff are made aware of students or staff members who have anaphylactic responses, including nut allergy
- Ensure that signage is placed in prominent areas e.g Front Office, Canteen, Gymnasium stating that the school acknowledges that due to food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate nut or nut products entirely from an environment where there is food, thus the school is "Allergy and Nut Aware"
- Teachers are encouraged to communicate with parents by sending home a note if food containing nuts is sent to school
- Ensure the school website is updated with information relating to this policy
- Liaise and support the Canteen staff to comply with Allergy and Nut Awareness policy

Role of Teachers

- Supervise students during lunch eating time and being vigilant in regard to this policy. Students who bring food to school that contains nuts or nut products will be asked to eat food away from other students and to wash hands before going to play. Teachers will then be encouraged to contact the child's family to explain our policy and offer support in providing alternatives for food at school
- Encourage students not to share food due to the risk this might present for children with allergies
- Inform and support students and their families about this policy
- Inform students and their families when there is a student in the class with severe allergic reactions

- Ensure information about this policy is included in notes that go home about shared food opportunities e.g. class parties
- Participate in training to understand procedures related to anaphylaxis as the need arises
- Encourage all students to wash hands after eating

Role of Parents / Caregivers

- Requested not to send food to school that contain nuts or nut products. This includes products such as peanut paste, 'Nutella', most nuts, peanut cooking oil and other foods that may contain nuts. This information will be distributed regularly throughout the year through school newsletters, class newsletters, on the school website and through school enrolment packs.
- Understand that students bringing food that contains nuts or nut products will be asked to eat that food away from any other students and to also wash their hands after eating.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed with students, parents and community input as part of the school's review cycle.

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 'Allergy and Nut Aware' school.

What is Anaphylactic Shock?

An anaphylactic reaction is a very severe and sometimes life threatening reaction that occurs when people with anaphylaxis 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 to certain foods, have an Emergency Plan (Health Care Plan) that will be followed at school to ensure the most effective treatment is provided for the child concerned. This could involve giving antihistamine, administering an adrenaline injection, and calling an ambulance. Should an Emergency Plan be activated at the school, the child's parents are also notified immediately.

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. It can also include 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 potential life threatening 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 feel confident that their child will be in a safe environment
- feeling confident that other people understand this is a life threatening condition and not about over-reacting parents.

Unfortunately, when we have a child at risk of anaphylaxis we can never afford to be blasé. We are requesting that families 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.

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

Dated: **March 2020 Updated**