



## Allergies and Anaphylaxis Awareness Policy

Ratified: 6/8/2024

Review Date: August 2027

### Rationale

This policy aligns with the South Australian Department for Education's Allergy and Anaphylaxis Awareness Policy, it is designed to promote and construct learning environments that are safe and supportive of all stakeholders.

Students and staff may have anaphylactic (severe allergic) conditions, including but not limited to nut allergies. This means that exposure at school may constitute a risk to their health and wellbeing.

While it is not possible to guarantee that the environment will be completely free of potential hazards, RPS is committed to raising awareness and adopting reasonable procedures to minimise risks.

### Aims

- To provide a safe school environment for the school community.
- To raise awareness of severe allergies for all members of the school community.
- To actively promote allergy awareness and show care and concern for others within our community.
- To implement practical, age-appropriate strategies to minimise exposure to known allergens.
- To support students in developing strategies for managing their severe allergy in the wider community as well as at school.

### Emergency Response Procedures

In the event of an anaphylactic reaction:

1. Follow the student's ASCIA Action Plan
2. Administer the adrenaline autoinjector
3. Call an ambulance
4. Transfer care to ambulance officers when they arrive
5. Provide the used adrenaline autoinjector to ambulance staff
6. Contact the student's guardians

### ASCIA Action Plans and Health Support Agreements

- All students with anaphylaxis must have a current ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis, completed by their treating medical practitioner.
- A Health Support Agreement will be developed for each student with severe allergies, in consultation with the student's guardians.
- Copies of ASCIA Action Plans will be kept with the student's adrenaline autoinjector, in the front office, and in the student's classroom.

### Allergy Plan Reviews & First Aid Requirements

- Individual ASCIA Action Plans and Health Support Agreements will be reviewed annually or when there is a change in the student's condition.
- Adrenaline autoinjectors will be checked monthly for expiry and integrity.

### General Use Adrenaline Autoinjector

RPS will maintain at least one clearly labelled 'general use' 0.3mg adrenaline autoinjector (EpiPen®) that has not been prescribed to a particular student. This will be stored in an easily accessible, unlocked location known to all staff.

## Training and Education

- At least one staff member trained in HLTAID012 Provide First Aid in an Education and Care Setting will be in attendance at all times.
- Staff will complete the ASCIA anaphylaxis e-training every two years.
- Regular practical training sessions in using adrenaline autoinjectors will be conducted twice a year.
- The school community, including students, will be regularly educated about allergies and the importance of allergy awareness.

## Risk Minimisation Strategies

Rather than implementing blanket bans on specific foods, RPS will:

- Promote allergy awareness throughout the school community.
- Discourage food sharing and encourage hand washing before and after eating.
- Supervise students during lunch eating times.
- Consider allergies when planning class parties, excursions, camps, and sporting events.
- Ensure tables and surfaces are wiped down regularly.
- Promote a 'no sharing' food policy.

## Communication Strategies

- Information about allergy awareness will be included on the school website.
- Information about allergies will be offered to the school community on request.
- Clear communication channels will be maintained between school staff and guardians of students with allergies.
- Age-appropriate education about allergies will be provided to students as required.

## Mental Health and Bullying Considerations

- Support will be provided to students with severe allergies and their families to manage any anxiety related to their condition.
- Any bullying or teasing related to allergies will be treated seriously under the school's anti-bullying policy.

## Transport Considerations

Strategies will be developed to ensure the safe management of allergies during school excursions and when travelling to and from school.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### Leadership Team

- Inform guardians of this policy when they enrol their children via the parent handbook and website.
- Ensure staff are informed and trained around allergy awareness and treatment.
- Maintain open communication with the school community about allergy awareness.
- Ensure that the school's policies align with Department for Education guidelines.

### Teaching Staff

- Supervise students during lunch eating time.
- Be vigilant and respond appropriately to any bullying or teasing related to allergies.
- Inform students and their families about this policy as required.
- Participate in required training.

### Students

- Understand their responsibilities to provide a safe environment for all students.
- Not share food unless supervised during special events.
- Be respectful, the Ridgehaven way when discussing allergies with other students.

### Guardians

- Provide the school with up-to-date information about the student's allergies.
- Provide the school with the student's ASCIA Action Plan and prescribed medications.

## Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed with input from all stakeholders, and ratified by Governing Council.

RPS acknowledges that due to food processing practices, it is impractical to eliminate allergens entirely from an environment where there is food, so we strive to be an 'Allergy Aware' school.