

ALLERGY AWARENESS POLICY

This policy is informed by:

- **CMS Health Policy** (reviewed 2018)
- Duty of Care Policy (reviewed 2018)
- Medication Policy (reviewed 2018)
- The Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) www.allergy.org.au

Statement:

Canberra Montessori School is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students. We support families and students in responsible management of allergies.

Rationale:

This policy is adopted to protect students who have severe allergies (anaphylaxis), particularly those allergic to peanuts and other common food allergens.

What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is a potentially life threatening, severe allergic reaction and should always be treated as a medical emergency. Anaphylaxis occurs after exposure to an allergen (usually to foods, insects or medicines), to which a person is allergic. Not all people with allergies are at risk of anaphylaxis.

Symptoms of anaphylaxis are potentially life threatening and include any one of the following:

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

In some cases, anaphylaxis is preceded by less dangerous allergic symptoms such as:

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

Several factors can influence the severity of an allergic reaction. These include exercise, heat, alcohol, and in food allergic people, the amount eaten and how it is prepared.

How the policy affects families at CMS:

Parents are discouraged from sending peanuts to school. Requests such as this for other food products can be made in response to the enrolment of students with other medically diagnosed allergies at our school.

Responsibilities of the staff:

- The school has a First Aid Officer assigned to support any emergencies.
- Teaching staff are First Aid trained and aware of students throughout the school who are at risk of potential allergic reasons.
- Staff educate students in their care to support the student with allergy.
- Best practice hygiene and non-sharing of food brought from home is embedded into the Montessori approach to food consumption and handling.

| Approved by: | Date: | Next Review Date: |
|--------------|------------|-------------------|
| Principal | 07/08/2020 | 07/08/2022 |