

Hornsea Burton Primary School

Policy for dealing with anaphylaxis

Aims

The governors and staff wish:

- To ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to avoid the possibility of an allergic reaction.
- To provide a medical safety net for the child in the unlikely event of an allergic reaction.
- To promote confidence and competence among school staff and ensure that neither the school nor the LA runs the risk of failing to provide adequate support systems for the child.

Anaphylaxis is a possibly life threatening allergic reaction and requires swift emergency treatment. The most common cause is food – in particular nuts, fish and dairy products. Wasp stings can also trigger an attack.

Full discussions will take place with all the staff and the school will liaise with parents and the necessary health authorities. The school nurse will provide training for staff and access to training EpiPen.

Possible Symptoms

- Flushed face, hives, swelling or itchy lips, tongue or eyes
- Tightness in mouth, throat and/or chest
- Difficulty breathing or swallowing, wheezing, coughing and choking
- Vomiting, nausea, diarrhoea and stomach pains
- Dizziness, unsteadiness, sudden fatigue and rapid heartbeat
- Loss of consciousness

Guidance

Anaphylaxis is a quite rare but extremely dangerous allergic reaction which can be life threatening.

It occurs in people who are allergic to a particular and specific substance. We may have children in school who are allergic to certain substances and they could have an allergic reaction if they are in contact with the substances they are allergic to.

Preventing an attack is very important. The children, if they are aware of their allergy will probably be very sensible about what they eat, however they may not be aware or have an reaction for the first time in school.

Therefore all staff need to be aware of this condition and the procedure for dealing with it just in case.

All staff need to know where the EpiPens are stored, and after training, be prepared to use them, or get the help of another member of staff who will.

EpiPens must always be taken with the children if they are away from the school premises.

In the event of a child going into Anaphylactic Shock it is **important that everyone acts quickly**

- Alert another member of staff and ask them to bring the EpiPen, which must be administered, as soon as possible into the child's upper thigh. This can be done through clothing. (Mrs Marsh or Mrs Shiels are the named people to administer the epi-pen although all staff have had one day emergency first aid training which covers this and would be expected to administer if necessary).
- Arrange for someone to telephone for an ambulance, as soon as possible, and ask them how long it will be. Make sure they know that the child is having an anaphylactic reaction.
- Telephone the child's GP and the parents.
- If there is no response to the treatment after ten minutes then another dose will be given
- There is an emergency procedure checklist on the wall in the office, next to the telephone and also in each classroom and in the medical room.
- **Adrenaline given in error is not harmful. However Anaphylactic shock when not treated is fatal.** It is better therefore to err on the side of caution, and put this policy into action if there is any suggestion of an attack.
- When the child has gone to hospital either with their parents or in the company of a member of staff, then a full report must be written with copies to, the LA, the child's parents and their GP.

The staff of Hornsea Burton Primary School understand from Health and Safety that if they act in 'good faith' they will be supported by the LA.

Reviewed October 2015

Next Review Autumn 2017

EMERGENCY PLAN FOR ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK

USE EPIPEN IMMEDIATELY

- A trained member of staff must administer a dose of adrenaline into the child's upper thigh without delay, using an EpiPen. This will be kept in the school medical room. There is no need to undress the child. The instructions are on the box. Note the time.
- Have someone call an ambulance and advise the ambulance that the child is having an **anaphylactic reaction and that we need a paramedic ambulance**. Ask how long they expect the ambulance to take.
- If the ambulance has not arrived in 10-15 minutes and the child is still having difficulties breathing give a second dose if available.
- Telephone the child's GP if the ambulance is likely to be delayed.
- It may be necessary to take the child to hospital by car if the ambulance is delayed and the symptoms are not subsiding.
- The child must be taken to hospital by ambulance even if the symptoms subside entirely.
- EpiPens are kept in a marked box in the medical room. Personal ones for specific children are kept in a marked box with their name and expiry date on the outside.
- The child's parents must be contacted immediately, but not before calling for an ambulance
- When medical help arrives, inform them of treatment given.
- When a child has gone to hospital, either in the company of parents or a member of staff, a full report must be prepared with copies for the LA, Headteacher, child's parents and GP. The report should include times and names of those involved and a description of the symptoms noted.

Dear Parents,

Anaphylaxis is a possibly life threatening allergic reaction requiring emergency treatment. The most common cause is food – in particular nuts, fish, eggs and dairy produce.

In school we may have children who suffer from this dangerous allergic reaction. We are working with the relevant health authorities to try and minimize the risks to children whilst they are school.

All the staff will be trained to deal with the situation should there ever be an emergency in school. A policy has been prepared and agreed by all parties concerned.

We ask parents to follow the guidelines below in order to keep all the children safe, as some children will aware of allergic reactions but others may not have a previous allergic reaction.

Guidelines for parents

- Please let the school know of any allergies that your child suffers from.
- Please do not bring nuts into school as part of lunches or as food at parties. This includes things like peanut butter, chocolate spread with nuts, certain biscuits and cereal bars
- Baking in school and making of play dough will not include any involvement with nuts or peanut oil.
- There will be no nuts or nut derivatives used in school lunches
- As part of our personal and social education programme children will be made aware that different people can reaction to different foods and the dangers associated with some allergic reactions.
- The children will be encouraged to share in many ways but not to share and swop food.

Thank you for your help in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any further concerns.

We need to work together to ensure that all children are safe in school.