



# St Gerard Majella School

## Anaphylaxis and Allergy Policy

### PREAMBLE

This policy provides guidance on how to support students who are diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis at school. The guidelines are also relevant to support staff, visitors or previously undiagnosed students who require emergency first aid in response to anaphylaxis.

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen to which they are sensitive.

Common allergens that may cause anaphylaxis include cow's milk, egg, peanut, tree nuts, bees, insects, fish and shellfish. Other potential allergens include soy, sesame, wheat, seeds and latex.

### POLICY

To ensure St Gerard Majella School manages students at risk of anaphylaxis. St Gerard Majella School is committed to take steps to keep students enrolled at and attending their school safe by minimising foreseeable risks. This includes taking reasonable steps to minimise the risk of students being exposed to their identified allergens, and ensuring that school staff can seek medical assistance and administer emergency medication.

### VALUES

Fairness, Respect, Inclusivity, Care, Responsibility, Compassion

### PRINCIPLES

St Gerard Majella School has a process in place to identify and respond to the needs of students at risk of anaphylaxis.

When identifying the risks of anaphylaxis St Gerard Majella school will:

- seek information from the parent about the allergies that affect a student as part of the health information collected at enrolment and regular health updates
- identify the capability of the student to recognise their own symptoms, alert others and self-administer medication
- ensure a sufficient number of staff are trained in anaphylaxis management, first aid and CPR, based on the size, layout and cohort of the school.



# St Gerard Majella School

## Anaphylaxis and Allergy Policy - continued

### PRINCIPLES - continued

- Students with anaphylaxis will have an Anaphylaxis Action Plan.
- To ensure that students at risk of anaphylaxis are given every opportunity to participate in the full range of school activities, potential risks in the school routine and environment will be assessed using an appropriate risk assessment.
- Students may be exposed to their allergens during school-based activities. Allergies to foods and insects, which are two common causes of anaphylaxis, requires a whole-school approach to planning and risk assessment. It is not possible, nor practical, to remove all food allergens from schools, nor is it possible to remove all insects to which students may be allergic. St Gerard Majella School is committed to implementing strategies to reduce exposure to these allergens.
- St Gerard Majella School will implement and communicate the strategies that are in place to minimise the risk of anaphylaxis occurring.
- St Gerard Majella will ensure that sufficient staff are trained to recognise the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, and are trained and confident in administering an adrenaline auto-injector.

### EVALUATION

This policy is to be reviewed as part of the School's renewal cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Board on 22 July 2020.

Chair Signature.....