

## POLICY STATEMENT

# ALLERGIES

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### **PURPOSE:**

Due to the increasing number of children being enrolled at Tecoma Primary School with potentially life threatening allergies, it is imperative that we as interim caregivers have an appropriate policy as to ensure that all children, irrespective of individual needs, are provided with a safe and healthy environment.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Support children attending the school who have allergies.
- Minimize the risk of allergic reaction experienced by these children.
- Provide information, training and support to the school staff
- Inform and educate the school children and their families about allergies that are present within the school and the severity of the reactions suffered by some children.
- Plan and effectively implement individual allergy management plans with parents and health professionals of children with severe allergies.

### **GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION:**

#### **IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN AT RISK:**

It is the responsibility of the child's parents to inform the school on enrolment or on diagnosis by a professional, of their child's allergies and likely reaction.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure their children are diagnosed by a professional and documentation pertaining to this diagnosis is supplied to the school.

School staff are to be advised of allergies prior to students' commencement at Tecoma Primary School.

A photograph of the child and a description of each child's allergy will be posted on an allergy board in the office, in the sickbay and in the child's classroom. Parental permission is required for this.

The decision on whether a poster needs to be displayed will be made by the schools' First Aid Officer and updated annually, or more often, as necessary.

Dependent upon the severity of the allergies &/or reaction, an identification bracelet stating the child's allergy and location of his/her epipen/medication will be encouraged.

#### **MANAGEMENT and AWARENESS STRATEGIES**

##### **Parents**

For children with severe allergies and reactions, an individual Allergy Management Plan needs to be established by the school in consultation with the child's doctor and parents. Written permission is needed from the child's doctor to administer medication. The Tecoma Primary School cannot assume responsibility for treatment in the absence of such a plan.

Parents of children with severe allergies will be responsible for ensuring the supply of required medication and maintenance of the same.

Parents of children with severe allergies are asked to advise the Tecoma Primary School in writing as to changes in their child's medical condition &/or management plans.

Parents of children with allergies are to encourage their own child to become "allergy aware", with what causes a reaction, what the reaction may be and how to avoid it.

Parents will be responsible for ensuring that all emergency contact numbers for children with severe allergies are current at all times.

### **Tecoma Primary School**

Staff will be briefed annually or more often as necessary on the individual children's allergies, reactions and management plans.

The First Aid coordinator will be responsible for the creation and maintenance of allergy awareness posters and updating student information for the Casual Relief Teacher (CRT) folders.

Casual Relief Teachers will be provided with information relating to allergies in the grade they are taking in a CRT folder at the commencement of work at the Tecoma Primary School.

Consideration of allergies will be a compulsory element of planning for school camps and excursions.

### **EVALUATION:**

Evaluation of this policy will be carried out by the Education Committee as part of the Education Committee's review process, in three years time, or beforehand, if a significant issue arises.