

**Scoil Mhuire
Droichead an Chláirín
Co. na Gaillimhe
H91D7P3**



**Scoil Mhuire
Clarinbridge
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Anaphylaxis Policy

Introductory Statement and Rationale

(a) Introductory Statement

This policy is concerned with our whole school approach to the health care and management of members of the school community who experience serious specific allergies. The school's position is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment. Our aim is to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, plan for effective response to possible emergencies and become an 'allergy aware' environment. The school recognises that a number of our community members suffer from potentially life-threatening allergies to certain foods, or toxins from insects.

(b) Rationale

The purpose of this policy is:

- To provide a safe environment in which allergies can be avoided.
- To provide staff with information to take appropriate and immediate action when a reaction occurs.
- To minimise the exposure of students at risk to known allergens.

Definition

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction that occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (insect bite/food). Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and requires an emergency response.

Signs and Symptoms of Anaphylaxis

- Generalised flushing of the skin anywhere on the body
- Nettle rash(hives) anywhere on the body
- Difficulty in swallowing or speaking
- Swelling of throat and mouth
- Alterations in heart rate
- Abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting
- Sudden weakness due to a drop in blood pressure
- Collapse and unconsciousness

Pen Storage

One pen will be stored in the **school office**, a second pen will be stored in the **class teacher's desk** and a third pen will be kept in the **centralised First Aid box outside Room 9**. The pens will be clearly labelled with the child's name and their current class.

Emergency Plan if an incident occurs IN the classroom

- Adult in charge stays with the child and administers the EpiPen (and other medication as per medical specialist recommendation)
- Call 999 immediately
- Send for immediate support of another staff member
- Lay child down and raise legs and ensure that the child's airway is clear
- If (s)he has not improved in 5 minutes, repeat adrenaline with a second EpiPen
- Call pupil's parents
- Await ambulance
- After administering the EpiPen and if the child appears to recover well, it is still imperative that he/she is brought to the hospital as often a repeat reaction occurs.
- Ensure all items are replaced in the kit and taken to the hospital

Emergency Plan if an incident occurs OUTSIDE the classroom

- Adult in charge stays with the child, while another adult or possibly pupils obtain the closest EpiPen.(Either from the classroom or the office).
- Adult administers the EpiPen (and other medication as per medical specialist recommendation)
- Adult in charge ensures emergency services are notified and that the second pen is obtained.
- Contact Parents
- Stay with child
- Ensure that the child's airway is clear
- After administering the EpiPen and if the child appears to recover well, it is still imperative that he/she is brought to the hospital as often a repeat reaction occurs.

- Ensure all items are replaced in the kit and taken with the child to the hospital

In the unlikely event that the office is unattended, pupils should go immediately to the nearest teacher who will dial the Emergency Services and ensure the second pen is sent to the classroom.

Role of Parents (of children with severe allergies)

- Parents are responsible for notifying the school that their child is at risk (at enrolment or any other later diagnosis). A letter from the relevant medical specialist, detailing the nature of the allergy and the appropriate intervention, should be submitted for inclusion on the child's file. The school will only administer medication as per letter from a medical specialist.
- Food allergy students should only eat foods provided by parents from home.
- New staff members to be informed by the Principal and parent of an allergic student.
- Parents are responsible for providing the school with the correct EpiPen with the appropriate dosage.
- Parents are responsible for advising the school of any changes in the nature of the allergy and of any changes in the prescribed medication dosage.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring that EpiPens are replaced in advance of their **expiry date.**

Role of Staff

The school will endeavour to minimise the exposure of children at risk of an allergic reaction to known allergens.

- Classrooms and playgrounds which are used by children who are at risk of an allergic reaction will be designated allergen free areas (e.g. nut free classrooms). **Regular reminders of our policy in this regard will be sent to the general parent body.**
- EpiPens will be stored as directed by the accompanying instructions.
- The Principal and staff will consult with the parents to establish and review the management of the allergy in the school context. The Emergency Response Plan will also be discussed on **an annual basis.**
- Staff will be informed on the plan, procedures and emergency response plan.
- Staff will receive an informative presentation on Anaphylaxis and training in how to administer an EpiPen.
- EpiPens are stored in the Secretary's office, the teacher's desk and the centralised First Aid Box outside Room 9.
- EpiPens are to be brought on all school excursions.
- If a child is moved to another classroom i.e during class splits, the child's EpiPen will be given to the teacher into which class the child is gone into.

A video from Children’s Health Ireland on managing an allergic reaction is available for your viewing at:

<https://vimeo.com/566761958/82f145555a>

Conclusion

This policy promotes non-contact with the allergens. It provides a plan to identify symptoms and an emergency action plan for all staff to ensure the well-being of identified students. In January 2024 Staff watched the video from Children's Health Ireland and received training from a registered nurse on how to administer an EpiPen.

Ratification and Communication

This policy was ratified by the BoM in February 2024. Every teacher will be provided with a copy of this policy for their files.

Signed on Behalf of the Board of Management:

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____

Appendix One

Child's details for EpiPen use.

| | |
|---|--|
| Name of Pupil | |
| Date of Birth | |
| Class | |
| Mothers name and contact number | |
| Fathers name and contact number | |
| Emergency name and contact number | |
| Doctor name and contact number | |
| Pharmacy name and contact number | |
| Name of medication | |
| Prescribed dosage | |
| State: Is the child capable of self administration | |
| The circumstances the medication is to be given | |

Location of EpiPen; Three EpiPens in the school:

- (a) School office
- (b) Teacher's desk
- (c) First Aid Box outside Room 9