

Allergy and Anaphylactic Policy

NMS Regulation Standard 5

Our setting recognizes the potentially serious consequences of children with allergies. These allergies may include a condition known as anaphylaxis.

Anaphylaxis is a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction brought about by exposure to certain foods or other substances, such as nuts, dairy, seafood, wheat etc. Non-food items such as latex and bee stings can also bring about a life threatening reaction.

Our setting does not purpose to be, nor can it be deemed to be free of food items and non-food items that may lead to a severe allergic or anaphylactic reaction. We will make every reasonable effort to reduce the risk to children with severe allergies or anaphylaxis in accordance with this policy.

We live in a world that is contaminated with potential allergens and anaphylactic children; we must learn to avoid certain triggers. While the key responsibility lies with the anaphylactic individual and their family, in the case of a young anaphylactic child, the childcare community must also be aware. Creating an environment that reduces the risk to severely allergic or anaphylactic children requires the co-operation and understanding of all members of the setting, including staff, children and parents/carers.

1. Identification of children at risk:

- a) It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to inform the setting that their child has allergies or is anaphylactic or potentially anaphylactic.
- b) This must be listed on the registration form and they must verbally notify the manager.
- c) All staff shall be aware of these children
- d) A list of children with allergies will be posted in the kitchen
- e) On the child's admission to the setting, the manager/leader will discuss the child's allergies with the parent/carer. The staff will receive a demonstration of EpiPen administration.

2. Availability and location of EpiPens:

- a) Parents of an anaphylactic child must provide an EpiPen to be left at the setting.
- b) EpiPens will be clearly labelled with the child's name, expiry date and specific allergy.
- c) All staff are made aware of its location
- d) At least one member of staff will be trained to administer the EpiPen
- e) Children who are no longer allergic, or no longer require an EpiPen, must provide a letter of explanation from their doctor or allergist so their name may be removed from the setting's allergy lists.

- f) It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that the EpiPen is in date, and to provide a new EpiPen when the current one has expired. Expiry dates will be checked before administration, following the procedure laid out in the Medication administration form.

3. Parent/Carer responsibilities

- a) The parent/carer must supply the child with an EpiPen
- b) The parent/carer must sign the Permission to administer medication form.
- c) Any EpiPens sent to the setting must be labelled by a registered pharmacist with the name of medication, the dose, the name and date of birth of child and date of expiry.

4. Symptoms of allergic reaction – this list is not exhaustive

Common

- sneezing and an itchy, runny or blocked nose (allergic rhinitis)
- itchy, red, watering eyes (conjunctivitis)
- wheezing, chest tightness, shortness of breath and a cough
- a raised, itchy, red rash (hives)
- swollen lips, tongue, eyes or face
- tummy pain, feeling sick, vomiting or diarrhoea
- dry, red and cracked skin

Severe

- swelling of the throat and mouth
- difficulty breathing
- light headedness
- confusion
- blue skin or lips
- collapsing and losing consciousness

5. Treatment procedure

- a) There will be no hesitation to use an EpiPen for a potentially life threatening allergic reaction, time of administration will be recorded on the record of medication given form.
- b) A staff member will stay with the affected child
- c) Another delegated member of staff will call 999 immediately
- d) The leader will inform the parent/carer immediately after the 999 call
- e) If the parent/carer is not available at any of the contact numbers, the leader will contact the emergency contacts as listed on the registration form

- f) Regardless of the degree of reaction or response to the EpiPen, the child will be taken to hospital, if the child's parent/carer is not able to get to the setting by the time the ambulance arrives – a member of staff will go with them.
- g) The member of staff will stay with the child until the parent/carer arrives

6. After the incident

- a) A member of staff will complete and file an incident form and medical log as soon after the incident as possible
- b) CIW must be informed of the incident – 0300 7900126

This policy was adopted by : Mes Bach Pre School	Date : July 2019
To be reviewed: July 2020	Signed: