Nut Awareness Policy

VC/SC/EC/08/NTAP

Controlled Document

Policy Name	Nut Awareness Policy		
Ref #	VC/SC/EC/08/NTAP	Version	Draft
Effective Date	01 Sep 2024	Review Date	31 Aug 2027

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Aim

To raise awareness regarding severe allergies and to provide a safe learning environment for all members of The English College School.

Rationale

This policy provides clear instructions and guidance on the management of allergies to the EC community. This includes the responsibilities of students, parents and staff and the role of Vesta Care Clinical Team (VCC) in relation to gathering and recording information, the safe storage, administration and recording of administered medication.

Guidelines

Parents and caregivers

1) Must not send food to school that contains nuts. This includes peanut, paste, Nutella, all nuts and cooking oil containing nuts.
2) Must not send boxes that have previously contained nut products, e.g. cereal boxes, muesli bars with nuts, cake boxes, biscuits.
3) Must inform the VCC Team of any allergies that children have diagnosed.
4) Must ensure that medicines are stored with the Clinic and not left in the possession of children.

Students

1) Must not share food.
2) Are encouraged to wash their hands after eating.

EC Staff (including VCC Team)

1) Will comply with TEC's Nut Awareness Policy.
2) Must not bring food to school that contains nuts. This includes peanut, paste, Nutella, all nuts and cooking oil containing nuts.
3) In the event that staff identify nut products in the classroom whilst supervising lunch breaks, the identified child will be sent to the clinic for further evaluation and care. All children will be required to wash their hands.
4) Staff will be made aware of students and staff who have anaphylactic responses, including nut allergies, via the student medical condition & allergies spreadsheet. This information will also be recorded on iSAMS for students.
5) Alert the VCC Team to allergic reactions immediately, providing comprehensive information on the incident to allow the VCC Team to respond appropriately.

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6) Relevant staff, identified by the VCC Team, will participate in First Aid training to understand and deal with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) as the need arises.
7) The VCC Team will share information with school catering providers to ensure that they understand and comply with the **Nut Awareness Policy**.

The policy will be promoted by:

1) Informing parents and caregivers via iSAMS at the start of each school year, as an inclusion in the Parent Handbook and the policy will be available on the school's website.
2) All staff will be reminded of their duty of care as part of annual Induction and relevant staff will be provided with training delivered by the VCC Team.
3) Students will be informed and educated via teachers.

Management of students with nut allergies

1) Information regarding student allergies is gathered as part of the admissions process on entry to school, either directly from parents or through the medical records transfer from the transferring school.
2) At the beginning of each academic year, parents are requested to update their child's health status via the VCC Team focused communications.
3) Parents receive regular communications regarding the sharing of information with the VCC Team on medical needs through the student sickness process and other general communications.
4) Students identified as having an anaphylaxis risk as a result of a nut allergy will be required to submit an IHCP Plan to the Clinic, from their treating physician - the VCC Team will liaise with parents on this.
5) Clear instructions as per the IHCP are distributed to the:
   a) Student's Medical File
   b) Relevant academic Staff
6) EpiPens are stored in the school clinic under each child's name. There is a spare EpiPen in the school clinic for use in an emergency.
7) The VCC Team is responsible for checking the expiration date of EpiPens daily. In advance of expiry the VCC Team will contact the parent to make arrangements for new medication to be provided to the Clinic. Unused expired EpiPens will be handed over to parents or disposed of only with approval from the parent.
8) It is essential that when the VCC Team is called to respond to an incident that details of the medical emergency are provided to allow them to respond with the appropriate equipment and medication.

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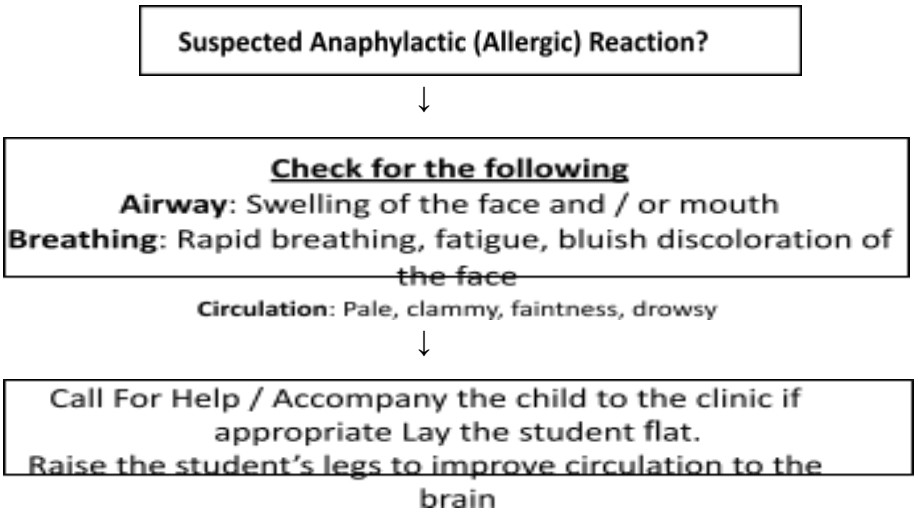
What to do if you have witnessed someone having an Anaphylactic Shock?



TEC has 19 First Aid trained staff - details of which can be found displayed on posters situated across the school site.

The school acknowledges that due to food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate nuts or nut products entirely from an environment where there is food. Many food packaging labels include the phrase "may contain traces of nuts". Foods with packaging labels that contain the phrase "may contain traces of nuts" are acceptable.

Please read labels carefully to help keep our students and staff safe.

FAQs

What is an Anaphylactic Shock?	An anaphylactic shock reaction is a very severe and sometimes life-threatening reaction that occurs when some people are exposed to products e.g. peanuts, dairy, eggs, fish and sesame seeds to name a few.

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How is Anaphylactic Reaction Treated?	All children who are known to have an anaphylactic reaction should have an Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHCP) that we also use at school to ensure the most effective treatment is provided for any of the children concerned. This will involve administering an adrenaline injection, giving antihistamine, and calling an ambulance.
Why are we a nut aware environment?	We currently have children who have anaphylactic reactions to nuts. These reactions can be triggered by contact, ingestion, or even inhalation. There is also a huge concern in regard to contamination of equipment whether this is play equipment, desks or other classroom materials. For example, if a child ate a peanut butter or Nutella sandwich and touched the play equipment, a child with a severe allergy could suffer an anaphylactic reaction from touching the same equipment. The resulting medical emergency could be avoided by minimising exposure to nuts. Two of the hardest things for parents of a child at risk of anaphylaxis to do are: - Send their child to school and try to allow them to have as normal childhood as possible. - Get other people to believe just how real this allergic reaction can be. Often other people believe that parents are overreacting. Unfortunately, when we have a child at risk of anaphylaxis, we can never afford to be blasé. We are requesting that families try to understand this situation and assist us to minimise the risk of exposure of these children to nuts by not sending foods to school that contain nuts.

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What kind of foods / products are identified as presenting a high risk for students with a severe allergy to nuts?	Foods: ✔ Nutella ✔ Peanut paste ✔ Nuts ✔ Any snacks including nuts Products: ✔ Cereal boxes ✔ Muesli bars with nuts ✔ Cake boxes ✔ Biscuits ✔ Any boxes that have previously contained nut products **The above are indicative lists and not comprehensive. There are studies that show cold pressed oils, even some processed / blended cooking oils, may contain allergens that can be harmful to individuals with nut allergy.**

Appendices (Relevant links to other policies or documents)

1) Healthy Eating Policy

Policy review history

This policy will be monitored, evaluated, reviewed and approved by the Whole School Leadership Team in collaboration with Vesta Care Clinical Team.

Historical Record				
Revision No.	**Date**	**Brief Description of Change**	**Approved by**	**Next Review:**
1	11/2022	Updated template & content	WSLT	07/2023
2	05/2023	Annual Review & Update	WSLT	07/2024
3	20/06/24	Annual Review & Update	WSLT	06/2025
4	31 Aug 2024	Review & Update		
5	01/07/2025	No changes made	WSLT	31 Aug 2026
6	01/07/2026	No changes made	WSLT	31 Aug 2027

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