Anaphylaxis

Do Schools need to comply?

Yes, to the extent that if there is a student in your school who may have a tendency to an anaphylactic reaction to certain foods, you need clear guidelines to manage the condition while the student is at school.

Conditions of compliance:

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction when a person is exposed to an allergen. The most common allergens in school-aged children are eggs, peanuts, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow’s milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, certain insect stings and medications.

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge, awareness and planning.

If you have to comply, what do you have to do?

Any school that has a student or students at risk of anaphylaxis should have the following in place:

- an Anaphylaxis Management Plan for each student, developed in consultation with the student’s parents/carers and medical practitioner
- prevention strategies for in-school and out-of-school settings
- a communication plan to raise staff, student and school community awareness about severe allergies and the school's policies
- regular training and updates for school staff in recognising and responding appropriately to an anaphylactic reaction, including competently administering an EpiPen®

A school’s guidelines should cover the following five areas:

- the school’s policy
- facts about anaphylaxis
- the roles and responsibilities of principal, staff and parents/carers
- management and prevention strategies
- communicating with staff, students and parents/carers.

What are the consequences if you don’t comply?

You may be putting the health of students at risk, or in breach of your duty of care or Equal Opportunity Legislation. There is also the possibility of litigation in the event of a serious incident.

Useful links:

DECD – Health Care Plans
Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA)