

Urgent Message to our CRTs from-Southern Teaching Services ANAPHYLAXIS (pron: anna-fil-axis) TRAINING PROGRAM

You should be aware that anaphylactic shock syndrome is caused by a severe allergic response to various food items. The most common being the innocuous little PEANUT. Other nuts as well as egg and some dairy products are less common sources but can also be dangerous.

Teachers who bring nuts to school, or peanut butter sandwiches or peanut bars could well initiate a life-threatening situation for a child in their care.

This syndrome has only become prevalent over the last 20 years but today around 1% of all children in Australia are affected (that's 5 children in an average-sized school). As crazy as it sounds, some children are so allergic that if a hand touches them, which has had the briefest contact with nuts, their whole body shuts down...the first symptom being lack of breath. They can lapse into unconsciousness within a minute.

Would you know what to do if this happened to a child in your care?

Be aware that most schools have banned all nut-based food items (this rule applies also to food brought to school by CRTs) and most permanent staff have completed a 3-hour, specifically-designed anaphylaxis first aid course. While DEET funds programs for permanent teachers, it has not offered to fund anything to do with CRTs (typical). The course is now run by St. John Ambulance officers and because of our large number of CRTs, STS has been able to secure their services at the heavily reduced cost of \$35 per participant (depending on numbers).

Because of Education Department Regulations which cover this issue, schools are now asking for CRTs to have the accreditation. It is in the interest of all of you to complete the course to avoid losing work as a result of the new regulations.

You can access more information on anaphylaxis decisions at the following website:

www.sofweb.vic.gov.au/wellbeing/support/anaphyl.htm

ANAPHYLAXIS COURSES- available this November.

Southern Teaching Services is planning a timetable for Term 4 whereby CRTs in the Bayside areas can get access to this 3-hr. course on any one of 3 Wednesday evenings in November (4.30-7.30 pm) at a school in your area. The only cost will be for St. John Ambulance to provide transport and time for their instructors and a small donation for afternoon tea. Southern Teaching Services and its associated schools are generously donating effort, time and the facilities to keep your costs down. The course will be credited to you for VIT registration purposes and a certificate is awarded to participants. However, the course has to be re-completed every 3 years to maintain your accreditation.

Times and venues allocated for November are as follows:

Wed 11th. Nov. Frankston Primary School. 4.15 pm.- 7.30 pm.

Wed 18th. Nov. Moorabbin Primary School 4.15 pm.- 7.30 pm.

Wed 25th. Nov. Albany Rise Primary School 4.15 pm.- 7.30 pm.

Courses for Clayton, Dandenong and NarreWarren districts will be planned for Feb/March 2010. Dates and venues of those programs will be made clear early in the newyear.

STS teachers are now being given advance notice to book-in at one of the venues.

In two weeks' time we will open invitations to outsiders as well so don't be slow to respond as we expect each venue to be booked out. Applications will be processed in order of receipt.

To access these courses you must complete the attached form and post back to us with your cheque/money order by this Friday (16th. Oct). Once you are granted a placement, there will be no refund, whether or not you attend. Successful applicants will be notified. Unsuccessful ones will have their money refunded.

Regards,
Russell
03 97662777

Return by Friday 15t. Oct. by post with your cheque/ money order made out to:
Southern Teaching Services (Other forms of payment cannot be accepted).

Your Name:

Your Phone No:

Tick the venue /date required:

Wed 11th. Nov. Frankston Primary School. 4.15 pm.- 7.30 pm.

Wed 18th. Nov. Moorabbin Primary School 4.15 pm.- 7.30 pm.

Wed 25th. Nov. Albany Rise Primary School 4.15 pm.- 7.30 pm.

Payment Enclosed: **\$35:00**

Southern Teaching Services P.O. Box 6030 Frankston 3199

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