Are you allergy aware?
What is allergy?

People with an allergy can become sick when they come into contact with things that are harmless to most people.

People with allergies to triggers they breathe in can get hay fever and asthma-like symptoms such as:

- Runny nose, sneezing and itchy eyes
- Cough, tight chest and get out of breath
Why do people have allergies?

- Sometimes it’s because their parents have allergies
- Most of the time we just don’t know
- Lots of research is being undertaken to try to find out why
- Unlike colds and chicken pox, you can’t catch an allergy from someone else
People can be allergic to:

- Food
- Insects (e.g. bees, wasps, ants) and ticks
- Medicines
- Things that they breathe in (e.g. dust mite, pollen, pet dander, mould)
Most people know about peanut allergy, but lots of other foods can cause allergic reactions, just as severe, too.
People with allergies to food, medicine or insect stings can get very sick and have symptoms like:

- Itchy red skin and lumps
- Face swelling
- Persistent coughing and finding it hard to breathe
- Stomach ache and vomiting
- Dizziness or collapse
Sometimes an allergic reaction can make a person so sick, that they need emergency medicine (EpiPen) quickly and then they need to go to hospital by ambulance.

This is called anaphylaxis (ana--fil--axis) and it means “severe allergic reaction”
So that people with allergies to food, insects or medicines don’t get sick, they must avoid what they are allergic to.

How can you help?
You can be a MATE to them!
What does being a MATE mean?

It means taking allergy seriously

1. Don’t tease, trick, bully or joke about their allergy
2. Never share your food with them unless they can read the ingredients themselves
3. Ask them what they are allergic to and what you can do to help
4. Get help from an adult if someone with allergy feels sick, even if they don’t want you to get help
What can you do to help when a friend has a severe allergic reaction?

• Immediately ask for help from an adult
• If no adult is nearby, a friend should run to get one ASAP
• The person having an allergic reaction should stay where they are and lay down (or sit if it is hard to breathe) while the adult quickly brings the emergency medicine to them - they should NOT stand or walk
What can you do when a student has anaphylaxis at school?

If the person having an allergic reaction has their emergency medicine (EpiPen) with them, they should give it to themselves immediately if they are able or it should be given by someone else if they are too unwell.

The ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis should be followed.
Further information:

250K – an allergy aware project
250k.org.au

Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia
allergyfacts.org.au

Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA)
allergy.org.au