

SAINT MICHAEL SCHOOL

SCHOOL GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH STUDENTS WITH FOOD ALLERGIES



*Information in this brochure was developed by:

American School Food Service Association
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of School Nurses
National School Boards Association
The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network

*Some information was adapted to meet Saint Michael School needs and concerns.

Food allergies can be life-threatening. The risk of accidental exposure to foods can be reduced in the school setting if schools work together to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for food-allergic students. By delineating the responsibilities of each individual involved in planning for children with food allergies, we hope to ensure that a plan is in place that establishes a positive learning environment.

Susan Reidy, Principal
Linda Sullivan, R.N., School Nurse

Family's Responsibility

Notify the school of the child's allergies. Update and renew every school year.

Work with the school team to develop a plan that accommodates the child's needs throughout the school including in the classroom, in the cafeteria, in after-care programs, during school-sponsored activities, and on the school bus, as well as a Food Allergy Action Plan.

Provide written (updated every year) medical documentation, instructions, and medications as directed by a physician, using the Food Allergy Action Plan as a guide. Include a photo of the child on a written form.

Consider the use of a medic alert bracelet to identify the life-threatening allergy.

Replace medications after use or upon expiration.

Educate the child in the self-management of their food allergy including: safe and unsafe foods, strategies for avoiding exposure to unsafe foods, symptoms of allergic reactions, how and when to tell an adult they may be having an allergy-related problem, how to read food labels (age appropriate)

Notify child's bus driver of the child's medical condition, and Epi-Pen availability.

Discuss with the transportation company the type of training the school bus driver has had, including symptom awareness and what to do if a reaction occurs.

Review policies/procedures with the school staff, the child's physician, and the child (if age appropriate) after a reaction has occurred.

School's Responsibility

Be knowledgeable about and follow applicable federal laws including ADA, IDEA, Section 504, and FERPA and any state laws or district policies that apply.

Inform parents of food allergy resources including the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network, National Association of School Nurses, American School Food Service Association.

Review the health records submitted by parents and physicians.

Include food-allergic students in school activities. Students should not be excluded from school activities solely based on their food allergy.

Identify a core team of, but not limited to, school nurse, teacher, principal, school food service and nutrition manager/director, and counselor (if available) to work with parents and the student (age appropriate) to establish a prevention plan. Changes to the prevention plan to promote food allergy management should be made with core team participation.

Assure that all staff who interact with the student on a regular basis understands food allergy, can recognize symptoms, knows what to do in an emergency, and works with other school staff to eliminate the use of food allergens in the allergic student's meals, educational tools, arts and crafts projects, or incentives.

Practice the Food Allergy Action Plans before an allergic reaction occurs to assure the efficiency/effectiveness of the plans.

Coordinate with the school nurse to be sure medications are appropriately stored, and be sure that an emergency kit is available that contains a physician's standing order for epinephrine. Keep the medications easily accessible in a secure location central to designated school personnel.

Designate school personnel who are properly trained to administer medications in accordance with the State Nursing and Good Samaritan Laws governing the administration of emergency medications.

Be prepared to handle a reaction and ensure that there is a staff member available who is properly trained to administer medications during the school day regardless of time or location.

Review policies/prevention plan with the core team members, parents/guardians, student (age appropriate), and physician after a reaction has occurred.

Notify the transportation company of students riding buses with life threatening food allergies.

Recommend that all buses have communication devices in case of an emergency.

Remind students of the "no eating" policy on school buses with exceptions made only to accommodate special needs under federal or similar laws, or school district policy.

Discuss appropriate management of food allergy with family.

Discuss field trips with the family of the food-allergic child to decide appropriate strategies for managing the food allergy.

Follow federal/state/district laws and regulations regarding sharing medical information about the student.

Take threats or harassment against an allergic child seriously.

Student's Responsibility

Should not trade food, utensils, or any food containers with others.

Should not eat anything with unknown ingredients or known to contain any allergen.

Should be proactive in the care and management of their food allergies and reactions based on their developmental level.

Should notify an adult immediately if they eat something they believe may contain the food to which they are allergic.