

2/28/2012

GUIDELINES FOR FOOD ALLERGIES

Saint Patrick School takes food allergies very seriously. The following guidelines pertain to the management and care of food allergies at elementary and secondary schools within the Archdiocese of Boston. They have been developed to assist the school in determining if minor adjustments may be made to accommodate students with food allergy.

Consistent with the latest Archdiocesan policy, Saint Patrick School attempts to follow these recommended guidelines.

Determination of Ability to Accommodate the Child

Prior to any child being admitted or enrolled as a student in an elementary or secondary school within the Archdiocese, the administration or his/her designee of the school and the parent/guardian of the applicant, shall employ the following guidelines to determine if minor adjustments may be made to accommodate the child's food allergy. We cannot however, guarantee that Saint Patrick School is an environment free of food allergens or that a child with food allergies will be safe at Saint Patrick School.

After considering the following guidelines, the administration or his/her designee shall reach a determination of the feasibility of parent and or physician's requested adjustments.

- As part of the admissions process, the parent/guardian shall meet with the Public Health Nurse, /School Nurse and the Administration or his/her designee to discuss the child's condition.
- The parent/guardian shall provide the Public Health Nurse/School Nurse and Administration or his/her designee with documentation of the child's food allergy, including but not limited to a written report from the child's licensed pediatrician/physician and written request for specific adjustments as requested by the parents and the child's licensed pediatrician/physician.
- Before determination of admission or enrollment, the parent/guardian shall sign consent forms:
 - for medications to be administered,
 - to share information with other school staff on an as needed basis.
- The parent/guardian shall provide to the administration or his/her designee and Public Health/School Nurse information related to the child's history including past reactions, a description of the reaction, triggers and warning signs of the reaction. This information must be presented in writing.
- The Public Health/School Nurse in conjunction with the child's licensed pediatrician/physician shall develop a plan for the care and management of the child in the school environment subject to the Administration's, or his/her designee, review and approval.
- The parents shall also provide an order by a licensed physician for an epinephrine auto-injector (Epipen) as well as any other medications needed and included in the plan.

2/28/2012

Care and Management of the Student's Food Allergy

- The following guidelines pertain to the care and management of a child, with a food allergy, who has been accepted for enrollment or who is currently enrolled at the school.
- Prior to the beginning of the school year, the Administration or his/her designee will arrange a meeting with the child's parent/guardian and teachers to discuss the child's condition.
- A minimum of two up-to-date EpiPens shall be provided to the Administration or his/her designee by the child's licensed physician.
- The parent/guardian shall provide the school with the name and telephone number of the child's licensed physician.
- The parent/guardian of the child shall instruct the child about the seriousness of the allergy and educate the child about ways to manage the allergy.
- The Administration or his/her designee strongly encourages that the student wear a medic alert bracelet at all times and when participating in school activities that may take place off of school grounds.
- The Administration or his/her designee shall instruct the School Nurse to train the appropriate administration and support staff in the administration of the "plan" developed for the care and management of the child's food allergy.
- The Administration or his/her designee, and the School Nurse, in conjunction with the parent/guardian of the child shall provide education regarding the food allergy for the parents of the student in the same grade as the child, as well as the students in the same grade as the child.
- The Administration or his/her designee, and the School Nurse shall provide education regarding the food allergy to all teachers and staff members with whom the child will be in contact on a daily basis.
- The Administration or his/her designee and the School Nurse shall maintain information regarding the care and management of the student's allergy in the classroom, as provided by the parent/guardian and the child's licensed physician.
- The Administration or his/her designee and the School Nurse shall communicate with the parent/guardian and when appropriate, the child, regarding any concerns related to the care and management of the child's allergy.
- The Administration or his/her designee shall make every effort to ensure that the classroom and eating area of the child with the allergy is cleaned prior to the start of each class day/lunch period.
- The student shall be proactive in the care and management of his/her food allergy(ies) and reaction(s), including but not limited to ingesting anything with unknown ingredients or known to contain any allergen or trading food with others.
- Based upon the child's developmental level, the student shall notify an adult immediately if he/she eats something that he/she believes may contain the allergen to which he/she is allergic.
- The student, if he/she is able to and if he/she is aware, shall notify an adult immediately if he/she believes that he/she is experiencing an allergic reaction.