

Dubuque Community Schools District

Peanut/Tree Nut Allergy Protocol

In the Dubuque Community School District (DCSD) we are aware of the tremendous risk children and adults who are allergic to nuts can face from even the smallest trace of peanut butter or other nut product. The consequences are life threatening in many cases and require immediate intervention with medication or even hospitalization. The DCSD wants to create a safe school environment for students with peanut/tree nut allergies.

Our schools are not “peanut free”, but we do provide a safe environment for students with known peanut/tree nut allergies and provide our staff with education and information on preventive measures and treatment in case of a reaction. Our preschool programs are peanut-controlled classrooms. See page 5 for explanation of preschool protocol.

We understand that each situation is unique and will address each and every student’s situation as needed. The general protocol for our staff/parents/students is outlined below.

School Nurse:

- educate staff about food allergies and use of Epi-pens.
- Develop Individual Health Plan (IHP) and Emergency (ER) Plan in collaboration with student’s health care provider and parent/guardian for all students with known peanut/tree nut allergies. Depending on the nature and extent of student’s allergy, the measures listed in the plans may include, but are not limited to:
 1. Posting signs
 2. Designating special tables in the cafeteria
 3. Prohibiting particular foods items from certain classrooms

4. Educating school personnel, students, and families about allergies and appropriate response
 5. Implementing particular protocols around cleaning surfaces touched by food products, washing of hands after eating, food service staff changing gloves before serving student with known allergy, etc
- Implementation of a protocol consistent with the protocol of the district pursuant to the needs of the individual student.
 - Educate student in the self-management of their food allergy, as appropriate.
 - Ensure all school personnel who may be involved with the student shall be informed of the IHP and ER plan, as appropriate.
 - Follow all federal, state, and local laws and regulations relating to disabilities, school health, and privacy, including, but not limited to, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) , Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Parent/Guardian:

- As soon as possible, provide the school nurse with a physician's or licensed prescriber's order, parent authorization, and properly labeled filled prescriptions notifying the school nurse of the student's allergy and the need to administer medication in a case of anaphylaxis.
- Provide emergency contact information and other relevant information as requested.
- In partnership with the school nurse, the child's health care provider, and the student (if appropriate), participate in the development of the IHP and ER Plans

- Educate your student in the self-management of their food allergy, as appropriate.
- Notify school nurse immediately of any changes in the management of your student's allergy.

School Administration:

- Support the School Nurse in implementation of the IHP and ER Plans.
- Assist school personnel as needed.

Food Service:

- Staff will be informed of the student's ER plan and trained in Epi-pen use if needed.
- Staff will designate specific tables in the cafeteria for students with peanut allergies and post signage on tables to ensure they are kept peanut-free.
- Staff will use separate wiping cloths on peanut free tables and dedicated cleaning solutions or use dedicated disposable wipes to prevent cross contamination.
- Staff will use a detergent and sanitizer on all food surfaces and utensils which come in contact with the allergen; separate serving utensils kept in a designated area will be used for students with severe peanut allergies.
- Staff will take measures to avoid cross contamination in the kitchen and serving lines (i.e. provide a designated server who is not serving a product with peanut allergies to serve children with peanut allergies on a given day; any worker serving a child with peanut allergies must change gloves to decrease the risk of cross contamination).
- Staff will monitor for signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction as outlined in the ER plan.

Custodial Staff:

- Consistently implement the protocols to protect the health and safety of students identified with allergies, as they pertain to the cleaning of surfaces such as, but not limited to, tables in the cafeteria and desks in the classroom.
- Coordinate with food services staff, school nurse, or other staff as appropriate.

Transportation Staff:

- Staff will be informed of the student's ER plan and trained in Epi-pen use if needed.
- Consistently enforce that no student is allowed to eat or drink on the bus, while at bus stops, and loading/unloading areas. This is outlined in the Dubuque Community School District Transportation student behavior rules and is posted on every bus.

Dubuque Community Schools Preschool Programs

The preschool classrooms in the Dubuque Community School District enforce a peanut-controlled environment. We strictly adhere to avoidance of peanut products due to the developmental stage of our preschoolers to provide the students with a safe learning environment. In an effort to allow students to participate fully in all program activities, we ask that you not send any foods which contain peanuts. The contents of a product can be found on the food labels. The label will also indicate if the food item has been processed in a facility with peanuts. These items are to be avoided also.

A letter will be sent to all preschool parents/guardians with a list of suggested snacks.

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