

Safety Policy for Handling Severe Peanut and Food Allergies

Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy understands that food allergies can be life threatening. The risk of accidental exposure to foods can be reduced in the school setting if schools work with students, parents, and physicians to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for food-allergic students. Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy will implement the following guidelines in an effort to create a "Peanut/Allergy Aware" community.

School Responsibilities

When at all possible, students will be discouraged from sharing food.

The Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy Food Services Department will be responsible for:

1. Elimination of food production with peanut butter/peanut products. Only pre-wrapped, labeled peanut products will be available through the food service department.
2. Provide an allergen-free food selection every day.

The Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy Health Staff is responsible to:

1. Contact the parent(s) of students with known life threatening allergies.
2. Work with parents, health care providers, and school staff to develop the student's individualized Food Allergy Action Plan, which will be updated annually.
3. Ensure that a district medication form is on file for all emergency medication.
4. Notify appropriate staff regarding the student's Food Allergy Action Plan, to include the Food Service Department.
5. Train appropriate staff in giving emergency medications and/or administering the Epi-pen.
6. Ensure that all emergency medication is kept stored in the office with the Food Allergy Action Plan.
7. Make educational information regarding allergies available to staff, students, and the school community when requested.
8. Reinforce self-management of students dealing with their allergies.
9. Work with family and staff on appropriate management of food allergy when field trip occurs.
10. Follow federal/state/district laws and regulations regarding sharing of medical information about the student.

Family Responsibilities

1. Notify the school of the child's allergies. Request a blank Food Allergy Action Plan and Medical Administration Form.
2. Complete the Food Allergy Action Plan and any other Medication Administration Forms necessary. Work with school nurse on ensuring that the appropriate school staff members have been informed of the student's allergies and has a copy of the plan (if necessary). The parent of the allergic student is responsible for updating the health care plan each year.
3. Make sure the care plan includes detailed information regarding the student's potential symptoms, contact information, and treatment.
4. Provide properly labeled, physician approved medications and replace medication after use or upon expiration.
5. 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
 - when to tell an adult they may be having an allergy-related problem
 - how to read food labels
 - why "Peanut/Allergy Awareness" is imperative verses a false sense of security that any environment is truly "Peanut/Allergen Free"
6. Periodically review policies/procedures with the school staff, the child's physician, and the child after a reaction has occurred.
7. Provide emergency contact information.

Student Responsibilities

1. Student will not trade food with others.
2. Student will not eat anything with known allergens or any unknown ingredients.
3. Students will be proactive in the care and management of their food allergies and reactions.
4. Students will notify an adult immediately if they eat something they believe may contain the food to which they are allergic.

NOTE: CVCA does not guarantee the content of foods brought into school for Power Meals, dinners such as the Auction, snacks for class or group activities, refreshments at activities such as Open house, and any other foods other than what is provided by the food service department. Parents and students are encouraged to take the necessary precautions if you have any food allergies."

revised 11/19/09