

Allergen Guidelines

The Elkton School District is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for students. The Elkton Administration understands the increasing prevalence of life threatening allergies amongst the school age population. Recognizing that the risk of accidental exposure to allergens can be reduced in the school setting, the Elkton School District is committed to working in cooperation with parents, students, and physicians to minimize the risks and provide a safe educational environment for all students. The focus of allergy management shall be prevention, education, awareness, communication and emergency response.

When a student enrolls the Elkton School District or if there is a change in the student's health, parents will be request to complete a health form. The form will alert the nurse of health conditions that warrant further information. If this condition is an allergy, a treatment plan will be completed by the parent/guardian, school nurse, and doctor, if medication is necessary.

Health plans will be distributed to the staff that interacts with the student. Staff will be made aware of the allergy, reaction symptoms, and if an epi pen is needed. Lunchroom staff will also be made aware of any know food allergies.

The staff will be trained and retrained by the school nurse as to the risk of accidental exposure to allergens in the school and as to the proper use of epi pens. The staff will be educated to recognize symptoms of exposure and the protocol, if exposure occurs.

- The school will identify specific peanut free zones in the lunchroom and classrooms.
- The District will discourage students and staff from bringing in peanut products to school.
- The District will encourage hand washing before and after breakfast, lunch and snacks.
- The District will discourage the trading of food or sharing of utensils.
- The District will monitor and enforce strict cleaning and sanitation policies and procedures.
- The District will not knowingly serve peanut products in the lunchroom during a student with an allergies lunch time.
- Classrooms containing students with known allergens will have treats approved on a case by case basis, depending on allergies. Signs will be posted to remind parents what rooms are peanut free.

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