

Brainerd Baptist School

Nut and Allergen Awareness Policy

“Food allergies are a growing food safety and public health concern that affect an estimated 4%–6% of children in the United States. There is no cure for food allergies and reactions can be life threatening. Strict avoidance of the food allergen is the only way to prevent a reaction. However, since it is not always easy or possible to avoid certain foods, staff in schools and early care and education programs (ECE) should develop plans for preventing an allergic reaction and responding to a food allergy emergency, including anaphylaxis. Early and quick recognition and treatment can prevent serious health problems or death.”

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/foodallergies/index.htm>

Context

Brainerd Baptist School is required to provide a learning environment that is safe and supportive of all students. This includes providing for the needs of students and staff who may have anaphylactic (severe allergic) conditions - including nut allergies. For these individuals exposure to allergens at school may constitute a serious risk to their health and wellbeing.

While it is not possible to guarantee that the school environment will be completely free of potential nut hazards, risks can be minimised by adhering with reasonable guidelines.

Purpose

- To raise the awareness of anaphylactic conditions for all members of the school community
- To provide a safe school environment for all members of the school community

Parents

- Are requested to consider this policy when sending food to school that contains nuts. This includes products such as peanut paste, ‘Nutella’, most nuts, peanut cooking oil and other foods that may contain nuts.
- May be required to avoid products that contain certain allergens for special classroom events if there is a student in the class with a severe allergy
- Will be informed of this policy at the commencement of each school year
- Will have an anaphylaxis care plan from the doctor if their child has a serious allergy
- Will provide an EpiPen to the school for use with their child if their child has a serious allergy. They will need to ensure that the EpiPen is clearly labeled and not out of date, and replace it when it expires or after it has been used
- Provide written authorization for the school to administer the EpiPen or other medication or to assist a child to administer the medication.
- Are responsible for EpiPens at all after hours events other than Brainerd Baptist After School Care. This includes all Brainerd Baptist Athletic events and evening programs such as school plays.
- Will provide “safe snacks” in the classroom for unplanned events.

Students

- Are advised to wash hands before and after meals
- Will not share food with one another

Staff

- Will be made aware of students who have anaphylactic responses
- Will supervise students during lunch eating time
- Will participate in annual training to understand procedures related to anaphylaxis
- Will not use peanut butter in classroom projects if there is a student with a peanut allergy

Review

This policy will be reviewed by staff annually.

The school acknowledges that due to current food processing practices, it is impractical to eliminate nuts and nut products entirely from an environment where there is food. The emphasis is therefore on raising awareness and adopting the reasonable procedures regarding nut awareness.

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/foodallergies/index.htm>

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/csh/csh_guidelines_healthcare_prof_proc.pdf