



Dear NRSD Parents/Guardians,

August, 2016

As you may know, the incidence of food and environmental allergies in our school-age population has become increasingly prevalent over the last decade. For many students with allergies, exposure to a specific allergen can result in anaphylaxis, a life-threatening allergic reaction that requires an immediate emergency response and transport to a hospital for medications, ongoing care and monitoring.

The Nashoba Regional School District is committed to promoting actions, behaviors, and education that create a healthy and safe environment for all those who use our facilities. To address the unique concerns of people with life-threatening allergies (LTA), the District will support procedures that reduce the risk of exposure to allergens during the school day, and optimize emergency responses in the event that life threatening reactions do occur.

Our comprehensive approach incorporates a focused effort by administration, parents/guardians, students (when developmentally appropriate), school staff, school nurses, and bus/van transportation personnel and includes education, training, emergency plans, and district, building and classroom prevention procedures.

Although more specific safeguards may be implemented on a classroom, grade-level or building-wide basis, the following will apply to the entire school community:

- All district staff will participate in annual LTA training that will include risk-reduction, management and emergency response procedures
- Students and parents will receive annual LTA education and information
- Frequent hand washing and surface cleaning are considered to be best practices for exposure prevention, and will be encouraged before and after food consumption
- Sharing and trading of food, beverages and utensils is not allowed at school
- Eating on buses is not allowed (except for medical reasons)
- Food will not be used as an incentive, reward, or for fundraising during school hours
- Food-free events will be encouraged; if celebrations will include food, each student will be responsible for bringing his or her own
- Each school community member will be responsible for maintaining an inclusive, supportive environment; the NRSD Positive Climate Policy will be enforced

Thank you for your support and understanding, and for encouraging your children to adhere to these procedures. It is only with the cooperation of the entire school community that we will be successful in providing a safe learning environment for all children. The NRSD Life Threatening Allergy Policy and Protocols can be viewed in their entirety on the district website.

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