

COMMACK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Allergy Management Plan 2020-2021

The Commack School District continues to make a strong commitment to the emotional and physical health of our students. The District recognizes that there are a number of children in our schools who have food allergies. Allergies occur when the body interprets a substance as being harmful and then releases a chemical called histamine to protect itself. This allergic reaction can be mild (gastro-intestinal discomfort; itchy eyes, nose, mouth, skin) to severe or life - threatening (respiratory, cardiac). The level of sensitivity to a substance also varies. Some people will only have a reaction if they ingest the food while others can have a serious reaction by touching or smelling/breathing in that food.

NOTE: The use of the term “severe allergy/allergies” is used throughout this letter. For purposes of this letter, severe is defined as any allergy that is life threatening - and for which the student has been prescribed Epinephrine.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the District has reviewed and revised our Allergy Management protocols. For the 2020-2021 school year, all schools will adhere to the protocols listed below:

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian of the student to notify the school nurse by the first day of school of any allergies that require accommodations.
- Notification must include current (within one year) documentation from the treating physician clearly stating:
 - all food or other items to which the student is allergic.
 - allergy levels.
 - whether Epinephrine is prescribed and the dates such treatment has been required in the past.
- It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to supply the school with the student's Epinephrine (two separate injectors/doses are required for each student).
- If a student with an allergy purchases lunch it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to preview Whitson's menu and ingredients.

School Responsibilities

- It is the responsibility of the school to notify the staff, by the first day of school, of any student who has severe allergies and the protocols and procedures to maintain a safe school environment for that student.
- In the event that the parent has not notified the school prior to the first day or that the student begins school after the first day, the school will notify the staff within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving such notification.
- All staff will be trained on Allergies and Epinephrine Auto-Injectors.

Practices and Protocols in Schools

- The district will ensure social distancing between individuals while eating.
- Students will be eating in classrooms.
- Students will eat lunch at their individual desk with sneeze guards properly positioned on each desk.
- Due to recent guidelines from the New York State Department of Education and the Department of Health, there will be limited movement in the classrooms.
- Students will be taught proper hand washing techniques.
- The sharing of food and beverages (e.g., buffet style meals, snacks) is prohibited.
- There will be no food allowed in the classroom for celebrations.
- Food items and/or food containers are not to be used in any classrooms for instructional purposes. This includes the use of food items as manipulatives and/or rewards. This also includes the making/baking/creating of food items as part of lessons and units of study unless in a FACS class or Functional Academics class. Teachers are to use other instructional materials and activities to help motivate students. ***This excludes specific cases in which food items as primary reinforcers are approved elements of a student's BIP.***

It is the District's goal to ensure that each student is able to participate fully in our educational programs in the safest possible environment. We appreciate the efforts of all of our families to support us in this endeavor. If you have any questions regarding the District's revised Allergy Management Plan for the 2020-2021 school year, please contact your building principal.