



## DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

### **Food Allergy Awareness Policy**

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools and the Diocese of Charlotte Catholic Schools are committed to offering a safe educational environment that ensures the safety of all students, including those with life-threatening food allergies, by working cooperatively with parents, students and staff to minimize the risks of accidental exposure to a food allergen while at school.

Our schools are not “peanut free” or “nut free” therefore we cannot eliminate the risk for accidental exposure to an allergen. However, safety precautions will be initiated by the school nurse or designated school personnel to protect a student once identified to have a life-threatening allergy.

The following guidelines should be followed by parents, students and school personnel.

#### **Parent Responsibility**

1. Provide the school nurse and/or designated school personnel with documentation from a licensed healthcare provider identifying and describing the specific allergen and allergic condition.
2. Complete all required forms annually and at the start of the school year: the Emergency Action Plan, Medication Authorization Form and Self Medication Agreement Contract (if applicable).
3. Provide emergency medication (EpiPen or Auvi Q) and antihistamine (Benadryl) **on or before the first day of school.**
4. Notify all after school activities of student's allergies and plan of care. **This includes ASEP, clubs and sports.**
5. Provide the school/teacher with “safe” foods for celebrations, classroom parties and rewards.
6. Educate your child never to share, trade food and/or eat food with unknown ingredients.
7. Educate your child to recognize the signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction.

### **Student Responsibility**

1. Should not eat foods with unknown ingredients including homemade items.
2. Should not trade or share foods with other students.
3. Should notify an adult immediately if they believe they have eaten something containing an allergen.
4. Should be proactive in the care and management of their food allergies based on their developmental abilities.

### **School Responsibility**

This list is intended to be illustrative, only the provisions that are appropriate should be utilized. The school nurse/designee will make every effort to tailor the individual health care plan to meet the needs of the student.

1. After receiving the student's required paperwork (emergency action plan and medication authorization form) and required emergency medication, the school nurse and/or school designee will provide an opportunity to meet with parents to discuss the student's specific plan of care, if desired.
2. The school nurse and/or designee will ensure that all school staff who will have direct contact with the student are made aware of the student's individual care plan and allergies.
3. The principal and/or school nurse will identify school faculty to serve as "First Responders". This team will be trained by the school nurse in CPR, AED, First Aid, including allergy and anaphylaxis training and how to inject an EpiPen/Auvi Q. First Responders will receive annual training to review the school's response guidelines.
4. If requested by parents, provide a "safe zone" during classroom snacking and during lunch to include a designated table to be kept free of the identified allergens.
5. The school staff shall take threats or harassment against an allergic child seriously.