

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS INFORMATION

Kildeer School District 96 continues to see an increase in students with life-threatening food allergies. Policy was adopted December 2010 for a Food Allergy Management Program along with guidelines. Become aware of the D96 guidelines prior to event planning.

Protecting a student from exposure to offending allergens is the most important way to prevent life-threatening anaphylaxis. Most anaphylactic reactions occur when a child is accidentally exposed to a substance to which he/she is allergic.

Avoidance is the key to preventing a reaction.

Some high-risk situations in the school setting for a student with food allergies: cafeteria, classroom projects (i.e., arts/crafts and science), field trips, bus transportation, parties/holiday celebrations, and goodie bags sent home with students.

Kildeer School District 96 has produced a suggested safe snack list for peanut/tree nut allergies.

In addition, certain student classrooms may operate on a different list due to specific individual needs (i.e., egg and dairy).

These lists do not endorse any specific store or brand. Items may change in their production or plant. Avoid items with “may contain...” or “may have been made on shared equipment...” warnings.

PTOs can help protect food-allergic students by educating their membership. Be aware of special precautions in your individual school buildings and communicate concerns to the building principal. Volunteers should check with the school nurse or principal if a food-allergic student asks if a food is safe.

GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEERS

Kildeer Countryside School District 96 is committed to strict compliance with the requirements established by the Nutritional Division of the Illinois State Board of Education and the Lake County Health Department for distribution of food.

It is essential that **all** volunteers comply fully with these requirements when assisting in distributing food at events during the school day in Kildeer Countryside School District 96 schools.

This includes the requirements that ALL volunteers wear:

- **hairnets (or baseball caps);**
- **gloves;**
- **long hair pulled back from the face and secured in a ponytail (bangs and hair tendrils must be secured away from the face with clips).**

These requirements apply even when the food being distributed is wrapped in individual portions.

Cell phone use is permitted ONLY in the building-designated area. Gloves must be replaced after cell phone use.

Any volunteer unwilling to comply fully with these requirements will not be permitted to distribute food and may be requested by the PTO chairperson and/or the building administrator to leave the school campus promptly.