

All Parents/Guardians Must Read Medical Danger – Anaphylaxis 2020/2021 School Year

Anaphylaxis means a severe systemic allergic reaction which can be fatal, resulting in circulatory collapse or shock. This letter is to inform you that **there are students in our school with life threatening reactions to peanuts/tree nuts, milk, eggs, shellfish, latex, etc.**

Some students have such a high sensitivity to these items that even a trace amount contacted or ingested can result in a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction. The most serious reaction being respiratory difficulties and/or blockage of the airways which, if not medicated immediately, can lead to death.

The Law: An Act to Protect Anaphylactic Pupils

An Act to Protect Anaphylactic Pupils: Sabrina's Law came into force on January 1, 2006. This law requires each school in Ontario to have an anaphylaxis policy that includes strategies that reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents (allergens) in classrooms and common school areas. Schools must also develop an Anaphylaxis Plan of Care for each pupil who has an anaphylactic allergy.

Avoidance and Prevention

Our school anaphylaxis plan conforms to the [Halton District School Board's Administrative Procedure: Supporting Students with Anaphylaxis](#). The plan is designed to ensure:

- students with anaphylaxis are identified;
- strategies are in place to minimize the potential for accidental exposure; and
- staff and key volunteers are trained to respond in an emergency situation.

To provide the minimized allergen environment required by the legislation, we need the support and cooperation of you, the parent/guardian and the school community. Minimization of allergens including milk, shellfish, latex, etc., will be addressed through individual Anaphylaxis Plans of Care to reflect the most appropriate response. These requests will be communicated directly with those classes/grades involved.

We are asking **ALL** students, families and members of our school community to adhere to the following requests regarding peanuts/tree nuts:

- **Lunches and snacks are free of peanuts and tree nuts**, as well as products that may contain peanuts/tree nuts such as donuts, granola bars, etc.
- **Read food labels, checking for peanut/nut ingredients** prior to sending them to school.
- Ensure **food from takeout restaurants is free from nuts**, AND free from cross-contamination of nuts.
- **If peanut butter is eaten at home before school**, ensure lips, mouth and hands are washed thoroughly before attending school (*this is truly an essential action to prevent cross contamination*).

If you have caregivers who provide your child(ren) with lunches or snacks, we ask that you share this information with them.

Thank You for Your Support!

We realize this request may require added planning and effort on your part when packaging your child's lunch and snacks. We wish to express our sincere appreciation for your support and cooperation.