

MACS Food Allergy Policy

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) recognizes that it is not possible to totally eliminate the risk of exposure of students with life-threatening allergies to foods that trigger allergic reactions but takes seriously the responsibility to take reasonable steps to protect the safety of its students. While MACS will not attempt to create a school environment guaranteed to be free from the risk of contact with trigger foods (i.e. “peanut free school” or peanut free classroom”), every effort will be made to identify students with food allergies, initiate safety precautions to avoid allergic reactions and prepare school staff to deal with such allergic reactions should they occur through the following guidelines:

Parent Responsibility:

1. Provide the school health nurse with documentation from a licensed healthcare provider describing the specific allergic condition.
2. Complete an individual Care Plan and Medication Authorization Forms.
3. Provide all necessary medication including Epinephrine Auto Injector and Benadryl.
4. Provide the school with “safe” food alternatives for lunch, snacks, celebrations, classroom parties or rewards.
5. Educate your child never to eat food with unknown ingredients.
6. Educate your child to recognize the signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction.

Student Responsibility:

1. Should not trade food with others
2. Should not eat food with unknown ingredients or known to contain any allergen.
3. Should notify an adult immediately if they eat something they believe may contain the food to which they are allergic.
4. Should be proactive in the care and management of their food allergies and reactions based on their development level.

School Responsibility: (this list is intended to be illustrative, only the provisions that are appropriate should be utilized. MACS will make every effort to tailor the individual health care plan to meet the needs of the student).

1. After receiving the individual Care Plan and Medication Authorization forms from the parent, the school nurse will provide an opportunity to meet to review and implement the plan of care as needed.
2. Assure that all school staff that will have direct contact with student are made aware of the student's individual care plan.
3. Train First Responder Team to perform first aid including administration of epinephrine auto injector and CPR.
4. If needed provide "safe zone" during classroom snacking and during lunch to include a designated table to be kept free of the types of allergens that impact the student at the parent's discretion.
5. The school staff shall take threats or harassment against an allergic child seriously.