



Re: Food Allergies

Dear Parents,

There are hundreds of students within the Newhall School District who have a severe food allergy to tree nuts, peanuts, and other foods. As many as 15 million Americans have food allergies, including approximately 6 million children. Food allergies can be potentially fatal, and currently there is no cure. The only way to avoid a reaction is to avoid the offending food.

Please make note of this important issue, as well as our district wellness policy, if you are bringing snacks or treats to your child's class to eat during monthly birthday celebrations or class parties. Any food brought to the school must be purchased and have an ingredients label, so we can discern whether the item contains nuts or other ingredients that children might be allergic to. **In addition, please do not bring any food items to school without prior consent, as it will not be allowed in the classroom.** We encourage parents to bring non-food items for birthdays and other special occasions, so that all the children can enjoy the celebration without feeling left out.

We also ask that you encourage your children to wash their hands before and *after* eating, to remove traces of allergens that may be dangerous to other students. Furthermore, this is a good time to review with your student the importance of NOT sharing food at school, as the contents of foods are not always apparent to children.

We appreciate your cooperation, and thank you for helping to make our school a safe place for all students!

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District Nurses
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