

Pequannock Township Elementary Schools Health Office News

Dear Parents,

Food allergies are a growing concern in schools across America. Millions of children, who are perfectly healthy and normal in every other way, must watch everything they eat in order to reduce their risk of suffering a severe or even life threatening allergic reaction.

Students in many of our classes have serious peanut or tree nut allergies. A child with a serious peanut or tree nut allergy can suffer a reaction merely by touching a food containing a peanut/tree nut. Many of our students also suffer from other food allergies/latex as well as environmental allergies too. Therefore, we are instituting the following safety guidelines throughout our schools:

- Students will not be permitted to share/trade food.
- Students will be required to wash hands after consuming a peanut/tree nut product.
- Tables will be washed after each lunch.
- Elementary schools will be limiting exposure to allergens in the school setting, i.e. placement of students in the lunchroom; curriculum will be encouraged not to have activities that involve a particular allergen, etc. This procedure may be different in certain classrooms/buildings based on the needs and severity of allergies. Therefore, a letter may follow with specifics for your child's individual class.
- All students will be educated on the importance of following the above safety guidelines.

The allergy safety guidelines that will be used throughout our Elementary Schools were derived from the FARE (Food Allergy Research and Education) <http://www.foodallergy.org/> and Pequannock Township Policy: 5331 - Management Of Life Threatening Allergies In Schools <http://www.pequannock.org>

Policy 5331....There will be occasions where food and/or beverages will be served as part of a classroom experience, field trip, and/or celebration. Because the ingredients of these food and beverage products may be unknown to the food preparation person and/or server, a pupil with anaphylaxis to food should not consume any food products that he/she is unsure of the ingredients. The teacher will provide, whenever possible, advance notice of the classroom experience, field trip, or celebration in order for the pupil to bring a food or beverage product from their home so they may participate in the activity.

We appreciate your support of these procedures. School is a safe place for everyone to achieve their personal best. Together we can make this possible. If you have any questions or concerns please contact your school nurse.

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