

**PARENT WAIVER AND UNDERSTANDING OF FOOD ALLERGY POLICY
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA**

STUDENT _____ **GRADE** _____

SCHOOL _____ **SCHOOL YEAR** _____

Parents' signatures on this document indicate their receipt of this policy and their understanding of the school's efforts to provide and address food allergy issues and to reasonably provide a safe environment for their child. There is no promise or guarantee of success, but rather a commitment to these reasonable measures. Please initial the line below each of the listed measures to indicate your preference for having that measure implemented for your child.

_____ **School reaffirms its commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all students. Students will not be excluded from school activities based solely on a food allergy provided that a safe, reasonable accommodation is available.**

Measure the school may make available and implement for students with food allergies:

1. A yearly meeting will be held with the parents, student (age appropriate), a representative of the school administration, school nurse, and teacher to determine reasonable measures from the list below. These measures will be implemented for the purpose of providing a prevention plan for the student throughout the school year. The Parent Waiver and Understanding of the Food Allergy Policy is completed at this meeting.
 2. The school will ask the family yearly to have their child's physician complete the Food Allergy Action plan with specific instructions regarding the student's food allergy and recommendations for emergency treatment.
 3. A letter will be sent at the beginning of the year to all parents in the appropriate grade level informing parents of the existence of a food allergy in their child's grade.
 4. The student's classroom will be designated as a food allergy-free classroom zone. The school will make reasonable attempts to insure that offending allergens are not present in the classroom. However, the school cannot guarantee that these allergens will not be present. The removal of allergens will include food used in lesson plans, crafts and holiday parties. Any child in the affected grade level who inadvertently brings to school a product for a snack that contradicts the food allergy notification sent by the principal must exchange it for a snack that is safe. Parent contact by the teacher should occur as a follow-up.
 5. The school will designate a table within the cafeteria as a food allergy-free zone table.
 6. The designated food allergy-free zone table will be separate from the other tables and will be used by students with food allergies and designated friends (see #8 below) in the cafeteria.
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7. The allergen-free zone lunch table will be wiped down before each lunch period using sanitizer recommended by the CDC/FAAN, etc. for removal of food allergens on tabletops. Such cleaners may include 409, Lysol sanitizing wipes or Target brand cleaner with bleach. All three products have been found to remove peanut allergens, in particular from tabletops (Tamara, Conover-Walker, Pomes, Chapman & Wood, 2004).
8. The student with a food allergy will have an opportunity to choose 2-3 friends with whom to sit during lunch. The students chosen to sit at the food allergy-free zone table will have their lunches checked by the teacher or monitor on duty or the classroom teacher before lunch.
9. All students will be encouraged not to trade or share food or food utensils.
10. Students who may bring a food allergy product at lunchtime are encouraged to wash their hands before recess and/or before returning to the classroom.
11. School staff will receive training on the allergen labeling requirements and will be given a how-to-read label sheet.
12. School staff will receive training on recognizing symptoms of anaphylaxis from food allergies.
13. School staff will receive training in non-medical personal treatments for anaphylaxis from food allergies.
14. Epi-pens (with required documentation from the physician) will be placed in several key locations in the school building in the event school staff needs to treat a child for an allergic reaction. An epi-pen will be part of the first aid kit that will be taken on all field trips for this grade level. School staff will receive training on how to effectively handle these situations.
15. In the event that epinephrine is administered, 911 will be called and the child will be transported by EMS to the hospital.
16. As part of their training, substitute teachers will be informed of these policies and protocols. Classroom teachers will also include reminders of students that have food allergy as part of their substitute plans.
17. Other as agreed upon by school, parents, and student's health care provider:

I/we agree to work cooperatively with the school and its personnel to address my child's food allergy and to find reasonable measures to implement a safe environment. I/we further understand and acknowledge, however, that despite such efforts, neither the school nor the Archdiocese of Atlanta can absolutely guarantee my/our child will not come into contact with a food allergen and, that in event such contact does occur, the school and the Archdiocese of Atlanta expressly deny any responsibility or liability for the same.

 Parent Signature

 Date

 Parent Signature

 Date

 School Representative

 Date