

# Woodward Academy Food Allergy Policy

## What Woodward Academy Does

Woodward Academy recognizes that food allergies are present in a small percentage of the school's student population. The foods most likely to cause allergic reactions are peanuts, tree nuts, dairy products, eggs, soy, wheat, fish, and shell-fish. Although most food allergies produce symptoms that are uncomfortable, persons with allergies to the above-listed foods can suffer more serious consequences. Woodward Academy has created this policy to reduce the likelihood of severe allergic reactions of students with known food allergies while at school.

- ❖ Parents must submit written protocols for students with allergies. These protocols should be designed to avoid exposure to foods to which the student is allergic. The School nurse, in the appropriate division, will work with parents to implement reasonable protocols submitted by parents.
- ❖ Information pertaining to a student's allergies will be shared with faculty and staff who have contact with the student.
- ❖ Woodward Academy will keep epinephrine on campus and in field trip first aid kits for treatment of an anaphylactic response.
- ❖ Woodward Academy will strive to instruct staff and faculty to recognize symptoms of an allergic reaction and to respond appropriately as necessary.
- ❖ Woodward Academy will request that parents not send snacks to school that contain peanuts, tree nuts, or nut oil products.
- ❖ Woodward Academy provides training and education for faculty and staff regarding:
  - Foods, insect stings, medications
  - Risk reduction procedures
  - How to administer an epinephrine auto-injector in an emergency
- ❖ Woodward Academy provides emergency communication devices for school activities including transportation.
- ❖ Woodward Academy serves peanut butter in individual plastic containers.
- ❖ Woodward Academy will provide special lunch service to children with allergies so that each child can obtain an appropriate lunch plate free of allergens for that student.
- ❖ Woodward Academy will provide special seating for students with allergies and their friends to help maintain an area that is free of allergens.
- ❖ Woodward Academy will attempt to avoid serving food with known allergens to any student, but cannot guarantee that products with nuts will never be present at Woodward Academy. Likewise, Woodward Academy cannot monitor products sold at athletic events or special student sales, products brought for potlucks or celebrations, or served on off-campus trips. Therefore, persons with severe food allergies must carefully monitor their food in these situations.

### **Parent/Student Responsibility:**

- ❖ Parents of students with allergies must submit to the school nurse protocols designed to avoid exposure to certain foods.
- ❖ Parents of students with life-threatening allergies must provide Woodward Academy with emergency medications and a written medical treatment protocol for their student for addressing allergy-related events. The school nurse will maintain the medication and information.
- ❖ Parents are responsible to educate their child about managing his/her allergy at school, including, but not limited to, identifying "safe foods" by reviewing the weekly lunch menu together, and contacting the Food Service Director for ingredient listings.
- ❖ If parents are uncertain about possible exposure to allergy-causing foods, they should provide meals or treats for their student.
- ❖ Parents of students with severe food allergies or multiple food allergies may be required to provide meals or snacks for their children.
- ❖ General Student Checklist: (modified for age appropriateness)
  - Take as much responsibility as possible for avoiding allergens.
  - Do not trade or share foods.
  - Wash hands before and after eating
  - Learn to recognize the symptoms of your allergic reactions.
  - Promptly inform an adult as soon as accidental exposure occurs or symptoms appear.
  - Take more responsibility for your allergies as you get older.
  - Develop a relationship with the school nurse to assist in identifying issues related to the management of your allergies while in school.

Woodward Academy cannot guarantee that a student will never experience an allergy-related event while at school. Woodward Academy is committed to student safety, and therefore has created this policy to reduce the risk that children with allergies will have an allergy-related event.