



CLASSROOM NOTIFICATION FOR STUDENTS WITH SEVERE FOOD ALLERGIES

BACKGROUND: Two to five percent of students in SFUSD may have severe, sometimes life threatening, food allergies. Foods that most commonly cause **anaphylaxis**, a life threatening allergic reaction, are peanuts, tree nuts, shellfish, milk, wheat, soy and eggs. Anaphylaxis can occur within minutes of ingestion or a reaction can be delayed for up to two hours. At present there is no cure for food allergies and strict avoidance is the key to preventing reactions. Accidental exposure may occur by eating the food, inhalation of food vapors, or contact with the skin, mouth or eyes.

WHAT Food Allergy Classroom Notification Letters to parents/guardians informing them of the occurrence of food allergies in their child's classroom (available in English, Spanish and Chinese).

WHY To prevent families from sending foods for classroom parties/events that can potentially trigger anaphylaxis.

A request DOES NOT guarantee that food brought to school will be safe to ingest by those children with food allergies. In order for a child with food allergies to be safe at school, it is recommended that the child EAT ONLY FOOD BROUGHT FROM HIS/HER HOME.

WHERE Food Allergy Classroom Notification Letters are available through the SFCSD website, <http://www.healthiersf.org/resources/SHM-SectionB.php>

WHO Classroom teachers and appropriate school staff should be aware of students with any serious allergies at the start of each school year and throughout the year as students with new allergies become known.

HOW When a child is identified as having serious food allergies, the classroom teacher should notify the site administrator if the parents/guardians have requested classroom notification of the food allergies. The site administrator will complete and sign the notification and give to the classroom teacher to sign and distribute to his/her class.