

Date: August 12, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In Fort Mill Schools, a priority is providing a safe environment for all students. As you may be aware, food allergies are becoming increasingly common among students in the District and throughout our nation. While some allergic reactions are mild, many students have severe food allergies and experience life-threatening reactions when exposed to their allergens. In some cases, this reaction can occur simply through contact or airborne exposure even when the allergen is not ingested.

There is at least one student in your child's classroom that has severe food allergies.

Health and safety has always been a top priority for us, especially when working with students who have a life threatening medical condition. We appreciate your support of the following safeguards to limit their exposure to these risky foods:

- We encourage all students to wash hands with soap and water before and after eating. Hand sanitizers and water alone do not fully remove allergens.
- We remind students not to share food with others.
- When preparing your child's lunches and snacks, please check food labels and send in alternative food items to reduce exposure to the allergens listed above. For instance, there are several alternative butters that can be used in place of peanut butter (e.g., Sunbutter, which is made from sunflower seeds).
- Per District policy, all food items brought to school for group consumption by students must be commercially prepared (store bought) and have labels declaring the ingredients. If you need help identifying treats that would be safe for all of the students who will be partaking in the celebration, please let me know.
- For celebrations, please consider non-food alternatives. This is a good idea not just because of food allergies, but also due to the growing issue of childhood obesity.

Please refer to the attached factsheet for tips on how to read food labels. We appreciate your awareness, understanding and cooperation in working toward keeping our students safe.

Feel free to contact your child's school nurse if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Donna Randall, School Nurse