

## ISAAC has implemented a Food Allergy Management Plan (FAMP)

in response to PA 05-104, "An Act Concerning Food Allergies and the Prevention of Life Threatening Incidents in School." Like any school community, ISAAC may have students, staff or others with a variety of food sensitivities or allergies. All Connecticut schools are creating Food Allergy Management Plans and Procedures to reduce the risk of accidental exposure for those with a life-threatening allergy. Banning certain foods from school may create a false sense of security and discourage allergic students from practicing self-care strategies. While ISAAC will not ban specific foods, the school will establish certain allergen and food free practices.

It is important to identify and manage care for all students with life-threatening allergies (insect, medication, latex as well as food). The first step is communication. Before school entry, or as soon as identified, **parents of affected children must provide documentation from health provider of life threatening allergy, medication and emergency response protocols and any necessary food substitutions.** If the student has reacted to an unknown substance, the parents need to seek allergy testing.

ISAAC will take the following preventive measures that are based on sound medical practices:

- ◆ The school nurse will work with families, health care providers and the school community to create Individual Health and Emergency Plans, and will educate school community members about their role in the FAMP.
- ◆ There will be a "nut free" table and chairs in the cafeteria.
- ◆ All breakfast and lunch meals and snacks will be eaten in the cafeteria unless directly supervised by staff trained in food allergy exposure prevention.
- ◆ Students will only participate in food preparation with similar supervision.
- ◆ To prevent cross-contamination, hand washing will be promoted for everyone after meals, using soap and water or wipes if soap and water are not available. (Hand sanitizers do not effectively remove food proteins or dirt.)
- ◆ Food and utensil swapping will be discouraged as unsafe practices.
- ◆ ISAAC will work with contracted food service providers to prevent severe food allergen exposure and provide substitutions as prescribed by health care providers.
- ◆ Staff will be given an annual update of identified students and offending foods, both for prevention and emergency response.
- ◆ This will be a reference for planning food-related activities. Anyone supplying food for celebrations, fund-raisers, or other events will be encouraged to use non-offending foods or provide a list of ingredients or food label with the item.

- ◆ Outside groups using school facilities will be made aware of food and allergen free zones and required sanitation and cleaning measures.

Developmentally appropriate Self Care and Self Advocacy – Middle school is a very fluid environment. Students with life threatening allergies need quick access to their emergency medication as they move through their day. When students have chronic conditions where medication may be life saving, it is best practice to encourage and assist students to become educated and competent in their own care.

- ◆ The school nurse will work with all appropriate persons to help students arrive at this goal.
- ◆ If a child self carries an auto injector cartridge, parents must supply a backup unit to the school nurse in case the first is forgotten.
- ◆ Parents may want to keep one at home and supply one to any other program the student attends as well.

Middle school students are sometimes subject to teasing and bullying. It is crucial that any student carrying emergency medicine be able to securely manage that medicine and not feel threatened because of his allergy. Behavior that interferes with student safety will not be tolerated. Students need to know that teasing someone with a food that causes a severe food allergy is a form of assault. Students will be educated in dangers of life-threatening allergies and encouraged to be caring and sensitive to their peers.

Thank you for reading about ISAAC's Food Allergy Management Plan and Procedures.

09-17-07