



Common Food Allergy Protocol

In Romeo, we work to ensure that all students are safe. In that spirit, this document serves to notify all stakeholders that there are students in our buildings that have severe food allergies. To provide appropriate accommodations, our approach is one that is able to be reasonably achieved in the school setting given the constraints that we have.

Common food allergies include milk, eggs, fish, crustacean shellfish (e.g., crab, lobster, shrimp), wheat, soy beans, peanuts, and tree nuts. While all of these allergens can elicit serious responses, peanut and tree nut allergies, while limited, are the most prevalent in our schools. In response to this, some of our sites are designated as *nut aware*.

In a *nut aware* building, students, staff, and families are discouraged from coming to school with **foods containing peanuts or tree nuts, or foods processed in the same facility, for lunch or snack**. In addition, while there may be scenarios in which we are able to more closely monitor peanuts, tree nuts, and other allergens, we will not be able to guarantee *allergen free* zones. This approach is consistent with the guidance from the Michigan Department of Education:

“While it is not possible to guarantee absolute eradication of food allergens in a school setting, appropriate terminology posted on classroom doors and/or windows may be helpful and should reflect efforts in place at the school to assist in preventing allergic emergencies. This might include signs stating that this is a “peanut restricted” classroom (insert other food allergen as needed). It is best to avoid signs such as “peanut free” classroom because that may imply a guarantee and promote a false sense of security. (Michigan Department of Education Food Allergy Guidelines, pp. 4)

The District has taken additional measures to ensure the same level of service at all of our schools, including:

- Updated and consistent signage
- Epi-pen training for all staff at the start of the school year, along with small setting training for those staff members who have consistent contact with students that may need a treatment
- Section 504 and Medical Action Plan (MAP) language, where appropriate, that reflects consistency in practice and compliance with the law
- Holding "move up" 504 and MAP meetings at the end of the school year for students moving from preschool to elementary school, elementary school to Romeo Middle School, or Romeo Middle School to Romeo High School
- Providing guest teachers with important information about students with severe allergies who they may be working with
- Additional notifications about food allergen restricted environments within our buildings are shared with students and parents when necessary

The safety of our students is our number one priority. Working together with **R** community, we can support students with significant food allergies.

Go Bulldogs!