



# Halton District School Board

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**All Parents Must Read -- 2016-17 School Year**

## **MEDICAL DANGER – ANAPHYLAXIS**

Anaphylaxis means a severe systemic allergic reaction which can be fatal, resulting in circulatory collapse or shock. This letter is to inform you there are students in our school with life threatening reactions to peanuts/tree nuts, milk, eggs, shellfish, latex, etc.

Some students have such a high sensitivity to these items that even a trace amount if ingested can result in a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction. The most serious reaction being respiratory difficulties, blockage of the airways, which if not medicated immediately, can lead to death.

### **THE LAW: An Act to Protect Anaphylactic Pupils**

*An Act to Protect Anaphylactic Pupils: Sabrina's Law* came into force on January 1, 2006, making it law for each school in Ontario to have an anaphylaxis policy that includes strategies that reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas. Each school will develop an anaphylaxis management plan for each pupil who has an anaphylactic allergy. Boards must also maintain a communication plan for the dissemination of information on life-threatening allergies to parents, pupils and employees.

### **Avoidance and Prevention**

Our school anaphylaxis plan conforms to the Halton District School Board's anaphylaxis policy. The plan is designed to ensure students at risk are identified, strategies are in place to minimize the potential for accidental exposure, and staff and key volunteers are trained to respond in an emergency situation.

To provide the minimized allergen environment required by the legislation, we need the support and cooperation of you, the parents/guardians and the school community. **Students are asked to bring lunches and snacks free of peanuts and tree nuts, and products that may contain peanuts/tree nuts such as donuts, granola bars, etc. We ask you to read food labels, checking for peanut/nut ingredients prior to sending them to school. If you are bringing food to the school from takeout restaurants, please ensure the food is free from nuts, and free from cross-contamination of nuts.**

If your child eats peanut butter at home before school, please ensure your child's lips, mouth and hands are washed thoroughly before attending school. Truly, this is a life-saving measure. Other allergens such as shellfish, latex, milk, etc., will be addressed through the individual anaphylaxis management plan to reflect the most appropriate response.

If you have caregivers who provide your child(ren) with lunches or snacks, we encourage you to share this information letter with them.

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

We realize this request may require added planning and effort on your part when packaging your child's lunch and snacks; however, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for your support and cooperation.