



Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Food allergies in schools and nurseries

Information for families

This leaflet offers general advice on managing food allergies while your child is in school or nursery. For specific advice about diet, speak to your GP or practice dietitian.

Schools and nurseries

Most schools and nurseries have good systems in place to help children with food allergies.

If your child has been diagnosed with a food allergy, you need to organise a meeting with the head teacher and the school nurse as soon as possible. You will need to discuss:

- **Training** – staff need to be aware of which foods may cause a reaction and how to avoid them. They also need to be able to recognise an allergic reaction and how to deal with it. Key members of staff need to know how to use an adrenaline pen in an emergency.
- **Written instructions** – The Paediatric Allergy Team can provide you with a Food Allergy Action Plan on which you can give clear written instructions for the school outlining your child's allergy and what treatment is necessary. You also need to ensure the school or nursery can reach you in an emergency.
- **Treatment pack** – we advise you to put together a treatment pack for school or nursery, clearly marked with the child's name and containing:
 - the action plan,
 - antihistamine,
 - adrenaline pen (if required)
 - salbutamol inhaler and spacer (if necessary).

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that any medicines in this pack are kept up to date and that it is accessible to the child, even on school outings.

Primary schools and nurseries

Treatment packs should be kept safely in a central, accessible place from which it can be collected at short notice, e.g. the child's classroom or school office.

Secondary schools

Children may carry their antihistamine and adrenaline pens with them in their school bag. It is advisable to keep the pens in a rigid container clearly marked with your child's name. Schools can purchase Adrenaline auto injectors without a prescription to keep on site for emergencies.

Other helpful advice

More helpful advice can be obtained from Anaphylaxis UK (see contact details on back page). The booklet called 'Letting go' is full of helpful tips encouraging parents to look ahead to the time when their children will be independent. AnaphylaxisUK also runs workshops for 11-18 year olds, helping them to assess and manage the risks associated with having a severe allergy.

Food technology lessons

Whenever the planned school curriculum involves cookery or experimentation with food, we suggest that you hold discussions with the school staff beforehand to ensure safety measures are in place or suitable alternatives are available.

Using rescue medicines

- Be prepared – carry your rescue medicines (antihistamines and adrenaline pens) with you at all times!
- Make sure you refresh your skills with using your adrenaline pen on a regular basis – practice with your adrenaline auto injector training pen at least once every school term.
- Make sure your friends and family know what to do if you have an allergic reaction.

Contact us

Paediatric Allergy Team 0118 322 7224, or email
rbft.paediatricallergy@nhs.net

Other useful contacts

Allergy UK 01322 619898 www.allergyuk.org	Institute of Food Research www.ifr.ac.uk/protall/infosheet.htm
Anaphylaxis UK 01252 542029 www.anaphylaxis.org.uk Allergy in Schools www.allergyinschools.org.uk	ALK-Abello www.jext.co.uk

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

RBFT Paediatric Allergy Clinic

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