



Important Information on Allergies

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Allergic reactions can be life-threatening; important new Prince William County Public Schools guidelines focus on avoiding and dealing with them. Topics include school storage and administration of vital medications to students, preventing student exposure to allergens, and critical training for students and school personnel.

For your child's safety, please read and follow the full guidelines on the school division's School Health webpage at https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/student_services/school_health/index. Or look for Student Health & Wellness under the Parents icon at the top of <https://www.pwcs.edu>

Among the important information to know and follow:

- Note the student's allergic condition on the PWCS Emergency card that must be updated and signed at the start of the school year.
- All students with known food or other serious allergies should have complete emergency plans on file with the school nurse.
- Parents of students diagnosed with a life-threatening allergy should meet with the school nurse and other staff members to implement an Allergy Action Plan (AAP) and a Severe Allergy Individual Health Care Plan (SAIHCP).
- Epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPens) prescribed to meet the student's specific needs should be in the student's possession and/or maintained at the school for use, as needed; a doctor's order for the EpiPen must be provided.
- By law, all schools have EpiPens for emergencies involving individuals not previously known to have a potentially dangerous allergy. These are not a substitute for the specific needs of students with known conditions. Be safe by making sure that a properly prescribed EpiPen is available to meet your child's specific needs at all times.
- Work with your doctor and school nurse to train students to know and quickly report the first signs of a possible allergic reaction and how to avoid potential risks.

Read the full guidelines for more valuable information, as well as to access important forms for reporting and managing student conditions. We need your help to ensure your child's continued health.

Sincerely,

Teresa A. Polk
Supervisor of School Health Services
Office of Student Services