Darien Public Schools

Department of Health Services

August 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian of a child with a known life-threatening allergy,

The Darien Public Schools are committed to maintaining the health and safety of every child in the district. The prevention and management of exposure to life-threatening food allergies is a paramount safety concern.

To prevent and manage possible exposure to allergens, please provide the following requirements:

- Emergency Care Plan for Food Allergy; to be completed by physician and parent Click here
- Medication Order; for each medication that must be administered daily or on an as-needed basis, the parent must obtain the written medication order from an authorized prescriber Click here. A new medication order is required every year for each prescription and non-prescription (over the counter) medication prescribed.
- Handling and Storage of Medication: The medication must be packaged in the **ORIGINAL PHARMACY CONTAINER,** clearly labeled with the student's name, the authorized prescriber's name, and the medication name. Over-the-counter medications must be delivered in an unopened, properly labeled container. ALL medications must be delivered to school by a responsible adult.

Please bring the completed forms and all emergency medications needed to the school nurse at the beginning of the school year. Allow time to meet with the school nurse to review the accommodations and medication policy, including the option of self-carry / self-administration within the guidelines of this policy, when applicable.

Be aware that school nurses are not available to provide health services before or after regularly scheduled school day hours, and emergency medication will not be available, except as otherwise determined by a student's emergency care plan.

The Darien Public Schools have safeguards in place to ensure students with a life-threatening food allergy can safely purchase food in our dining facilities. Nurses maintain and regularly update Mosaic, the point of sale system, which prevents a student from purchasing a food item containing a known allergen. Parents are invited to visit the DPS Dining Services website for allergy information specific to our school menus Click here. If a student intends to purchase a meal, it is recommended that parents email the school kitchen manager copying foodservices@darienps.org, either daily or weekly, to ensure meals are created without the risk of cross-contact. Contact Meghan Bendish, Director of Dining Services mbendish@darienps.org and/or your child's school-based kitchen manager with questions or concerns related to food items offered.

Every effort is made to provide the safest environment possible. Your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school nurse at your child's school.

Sincerely,

Emily Merrtt, FNP, MSN, RN
Director of Health Services