

APPENDIX D

SAMPLE LETTER SECONDARY:

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

The number of students allergic to _____ (antigen) in our school is growing, and this year we have a student at the very highest risk level. If _____ (antigen) in even the tiniest amount enters the student's body (through eyes, nose or mouth, skin), he/she experience a very strong reaction. **Without immediate medical treatment, he/she could die within minutes. As a result I am banning _____ (antigen) from the school.**

Some interesting facts include:

- The deaths that occur are generally caused by cross-contamination, i.e., a trace of peanut butter that is left on a hand, a knife, a desk or another object. The student who is allergic could inadvertently touch this trace and a reaction (or even death) could occur;
- After eating peanut butter at home, students and parents should wash thoroughly with soap and water before coming to school;
- For some students, we have just a few minutes to administer the injection (an injection used for severe allergic reactions such as hives, swelling, difficulty breathing, wheezing) before death occurs;
- Students with severe allergies should be able to feel as confident and safe as possible knowing that all precautions have been taken.
- Some common food which are sources of anaphylactic reaction are peanuts (peanut butter, peanut oil), tree nuts (hazelnuts, walnuts, pecans, almonds, cashews), sesame seeds (sesame seed oil), cows milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, wheat, soy, and bananas (and avocados, kiwis, chestnuts for children with latex allergies).
- Other non food sources which may cause an anaphylactic reaction include playdough, scented crayons and cosmetics, stuffed toys, insect venom (bee stings), rubber latex, vigorous exercise, some plants (poinsettias), cold and some medications.

Since it is our goal to ensure that we have as safe an environment as possible when a student's life is at stake, we are asking for your help and understanding in refraining from sending/bringing foods containing _____ to school.

If you have further questions or would like more information please contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely,

Principal