

**Sample Letter to Parents about the New Peanut Allergy Law
Second Notice with Guidelines**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In August, we sent you a letter about a new state law about food allergies in schools. As you may remember, food allergies are a major problem in this country. They claim over 200 lives and cause over 30,000 emergency room visits each year, nationwide. A new state law was passed this summer to deal with this problem. Health and safety have always been top priorities for [SCHOOL], so we are taking this very seriously.

Since then, we have learned that several students in [SCHOOL] have severe allergies to [ALLERGENIC FOOD]. These allergies are potentially life-threatening. That means that if they cannot eat or even touch [ALLERGENIC FOOD] or foods made with [ALLERGENIC FOOD]. We have met with the families of these students to find out what to do to keep them safe while they are at [SCHOOL].

We are now putting in place these steps to help limit these students' exposure to these Risky Foods:

- [INSERT APPROPRIATE BULLETS FROM ATTACHED LIST, AND EDIT AS NEEDED]

Please do everything you can to follow these steps. We know that these may be inconvenient. But we trust that you understand how serious this is. We all want students at [SCHOOL] to be safe.

We will let you know if these guidelines change over the course of the year, as students come or go or if a student gets diagnosed with an allergy. For now, please contact me any time if you have any questions or concerns. For additional information on food allergies, see Food Allergy Resources at www.thriveri.org/peanuts.

I wish you and your family a safe and healthy school year.

Sincerely,

[PRINCIPAL]

The following is a list of possible guidelines to put in place, based on students Individual Health Care Plans. [INSERT APPROPRIATE BULLETS IN LETTER, AND EDIT AS NEEDED (E.G. FOR OTHER FOOD ALLERGENS)]:

- The following classrooms are now peanut/tree nut-free:
 - [LIST CLASSROOMS]If your child is in one of these classes, please ***do not send any*** peanuts, tree nuts, peanut butter or foods made with nuts to be eaten as snacks in the classroom. It is fine to send these items for lunch, which is eaten in the cafeteria. Lunch bags/boxes will be stored outside of the classroom.
If your child is not in one of these classes, this does not apply to you.
- The cafeteria and the following classrooms are now peanut/tree nut-free:
 - [LIST CLASSROOMS]If your child is in one of these classes, please ***do not send any*** peanuts, tree nuts, peanut butter or foods made with nuts with your child to school. Please check the ingredients list on all food labels to be sure!
If your child is not in one of these classes, you may send these foods only as a snack to be eaten in the classroom only, but not in your child's lunch.
- Peanuts, tree nuts, peanut butter or foods made with nuts will not be sold in the cafeteria.
- Peanuts, tree nuts, peanut butter or foods made with nuts will not be sold anywhere in the school, including in school lunches.
- Peanuts and tree nuts are prohibited from the entire school and school grounds. Please ***do not send any*** peanuts, tree nuts, peanut butter or foods made with nuts in snacks or in lunches with your child to school. Please check the ingredients list on all food labels to be sure!
- Special tables in the cafeteria will be clearly marked as peanut/tree nut-free. Other tables will be marked as okay for peanuts/tree nuts. Please make sure that if your child brings any peanuts, tree nuts, peanut butter or foods made with nuts in his/her lunch, that he/she sits at the right table. If your child does not have any peanuts, tree nuts, peanut butter or foods made with nuts then he/she may sit at any table.
- Signs have been posted at all entrances to the school, in the cafeteria, and at entrances to peanut/tree nut classrooms.
- We will keep a box of wipes in the classroom. We will ask children to use a wipe after eating any Risky Foods after snack or after lunch.
- We will keep boxes of wipes in the cafeteria. We will ask children to use a wipe after eating any peanuts, tree nuts, peanut butter or foods made with nuts.
- If your child ate peanuts, tree nuts, peanut butter or foods made with nuts for breakfast, please make sure that his/her hands are washed with soap and water before leaving for school. Water alone does not do the trick!
- We will not be doing any classroom projects that involve peanut butter or peanut shells (art projects). Please do not send any of these projects into the classroom with your child.

- We will be doing some events to help parents and kids about food allergies. There is a flyer about the next one with this letter. Please come join us for this special event.
- Please let your child's teacher know ahead of time if you want to send baked goods to school on your child's birthday. Please do not send anything with any peanuts, tree-nuts or nut oils in it. Please include a list of all of the ingredients with whatever you send. Also, please make sure to wash all utensils, counters and other surfaces, baking dishes, and serving plates properly after each food is touched. This will help keep traces of peanuts/tree-nuts out of the foods you make.
- Please do not send any foods with any peanuts, tree-nuts or nut oils in them for holiday parties and school pot-lucks. Please include a list of all of the ingredients with whatever you send. Also, please make sure to wash all utensils, counters and other surfaces, baking dishes, and serving plates properly after each food is touched. This will help keep traces of peanuts/tree-nuts out of the foods you make.
- It is almost impossible to keep all traces of peanuts/tree-nuts out of foods that you make at home. But a trace is all it takes to trigger an allergic reaction. We are therefore no longer allowing foods to be sent from home for birthday parties, holiday parties, or bake sales.