



# Holy Trinity Catholic School

1945 Hawthorne Drive, Sudbury ON P3A 0C1 Phone: 705.470.5123 Fax: 705.470.5257

Principal: Laurie Zahra Vice-Principal: Tina Timpano

Administrative Assistant: Candace Broughton

Email: [holytrinity@sudburycatholicschools.ca](mailto:holytrinity@sudburycatholicschools.ca) Website: <http://holytrinity.sudburycatholicschools.ca>

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## **\*\*RE: MEDICAL DANGER – ANAPHYLAXIS & NUT-CONTROL POLICY\*\***



Dear Parents and Guardians:

This letter is to inform you that there are students in our school with life-threatening allergies to peanuts/tree nuts. Some students have such a high sensitivity to the peanut/tree nut protein that even a trace amount from a known peanut/nut product or a food product/item that has come in contact with a peanut/nut source (cross contamination) and is ingested can result in a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction. The most serious reaction being respiratory difficulties, blockage of the airways, which if not medicated immediately can lead to death.

**THE LAW: AN ACT TO PROTECT ANAPHYLACTIC PUPILS** -Sabrina's Law, An Act to Protect Anaphylactic Pupils received royal assent in June 2005 making it law for each school in Ontario to provide an anaphylaxis management plan that will reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents (e.g. peanuts/tree nut protein) in the classroom and common school areas.

### **AVOIDANCE AND PREVENTION**

**Products that contain or 'may contain' peanuts and tree nuts are not to be brought to Holy Trinity Catholic School.**

Our school's anaphylaxis plan conforms to Sabrina's Law and Sudbury Catholic DSB anaphylaxis policy. The plan is designed to ensure that students at risk are identified, strategies are in place to minimize the potential for accidental exposure and staff and key volunteers are trained to respond in an emergency situation.

To provide the minimized allergen environment required by the legislation, we need the support and cooperation of you, the parents/guardians and the school community. Students are asked to bring lunches and snacks free of peanuts and tree nuts and products that may contain peanuts/ tree nuts such as donuts, granola bars, etc.

We ask you to read food labels, checking for peanut/nut ingredients prior to sending them to school. If your child eats peanut butter at home before school, please ensure his/her hands are washed thoroughly before attending school. Truly, this is a life saving measure.

### **Look-a-Like Products to Peanut Butter**

The Board is requesting that parents do not send their children to school with look-a-like products to peanut butter. The look-a-like products claim to be so close to peanuts in smell, taste and texture that you won't believe it's not peanut butter. As a result, it is difficult for teachers and children to differentiate between these products and peanut

butter. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping the look-a-like products at home and preventing the chance of a mix up between the two products – where the results could be life-threatening.

If you have caregivers who provide your child(ren) with lunches or snacks we encourage you to share this information letter with them. We realize this request may require added planning and effort on your part when packaging your child's lunch and snacks, however, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for your support and cooperation.

### **PEANUT – TREE NUT ALLERGEN INGREDIENT CHECKLIST:**

The following is a partial list of ingredients on the labels that will inform you if **peanut protein** could be in the product and therefore not to be sent to school:

- Arachis oil, cold pressed peanut oil;
- Goober nuts, goober peanuts, goober peas;
- Hydrolyzed peanut protein, hydrolyzed plant protein, sweet lupine flour;
- Nu-nuts, beer nuts, ground nuts, mandolena nuts, mixed nuts, nuts, peanuts;
- Peanut butter, peanut flour, peanut meal, peanut oil, peanut protein.

The following is a partial list of ingredients on the labels that will inform you if **tree nut protein** could be in the product and therefore not to be sent to school:

- Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashews, chestnuts, filberts/hazelnuts, hickory nuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pine nuts, pinon, pignolias, pistachios, shea nuts, walnuts
- Mixed nuts, nut butters, nut oils, nut paste, chocolate nut spreads, mandelonas, marzipan, nu-nuts, and nut meats.

Commercial food products may contain trace amounts of peanut/tree nuts from equipment used during processing or touching another product containing nuts (e.g. doughnuts, cookies and other baked goods from local doughnut shops). These small amounts have been known to cause a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction. If you have doubts about what is in a product or do not know what the ingredient word means, please do not send the product to school. More information is available at [www.anaphylaxis.ca](http://www.anaphylaxis.ca)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND COOPERATION IN KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE AT HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL.**

Sincerely,



Laurie Zahra

Principal