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FROM: DESE School Food Services

Below is information on the newly published *Voluntary Guidelines for Managing Food Allergies in Schools and Early Care and Education Centers*. A link is also provided on the School Food Services website -

http://dese.mo.gov/divadm/food/documents/13_243135_A_Food_Allergy_Web_508.pdf

CDC Guidance on Managing Food Allergies in Schools

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](http://www.cdc.gov) (CDC) published [*Voluntary Guidelines for Managing Food Allergies in Schools and Early Care and Education Centers*](#) to support implementation of food allergy management and prevention plans and practices for children and youth in these settings.

Food allergies are a growing food safety and public health concern:

- An estimated 4%–6% of children in the United States are affected by food allergies.
- Children with food allergies are two to four times more likely to have asthma or other allergic conditions than those without food allergies.
- The prevalence of food allergies among children increased 50% during 1997–2011.
- In 2006, about 88% of schools had one or more students with a food allergy.

The guidelines include recommendations for practices in five priority areas:

- Ensure the daily management of food allergies in individual children.
- Prepare for food allergy emergencies.
- Provide professional development on food allergies for staff members.
- Educate children and family members about food allergies.
- Create and maintain a healthy and safe educational environment.

The guidelines, a result of the [*FDA Food Safety Modernization Act*](#), include specific recommended actions for school board members, administrators, and staff at the district level; administrators and staff in schools; and administrators and staff in ECE programs are also included.

CDC developed the *Voluntary Guidelines for Managing Food Allergies* in consultation with stakeholders across the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Justice; as well as an advisory team representing experts in the fields of food allergies, school, and school health.