



June 1, 2022

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Being proactive is the best protection for our students with life-threatening food allergies (i.e., peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, milk, soy, egg, fish, shellfish, sesame), Celiac disease, dysphagia, diabetes, or any other medical condition. The safest meal is one packed from home. Maschio's Food Services offers many foods to the students in your district. Not all foods are allergen free and cross-contamination may occur. Maschio's highly recommends that students with life-threatening food allergies avoid purchasing snacks.

If necessary, Maschio's Food Services is able to offer substitute meals for students with life-threatening food allergies. According to USDA-FNS Accommodating Children with Disabilities in the School Meal Programs Guidance for School Food Service Professionals, "the SFA's responsibility is to serve the child a safe meal that accommodates their disability, not to mirror the Program meal served that day." In addition, per SP 59-2016: Policy Memorandum on Modifications to Accommodate Disabilities in the School Meal Programs, "SFAs are not required to provide the specific substitution or other modification requested, but must offer a reasonable modification that effectively accommodates the child's disability and provides equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from the program."

The enclosed **Medical Statement Request for Special Meals and Milk Substitutions** is required to be completed by your child's physician or medical professional on a yearly basis unless updated medical documentation is on file. Once the completed and signed paperwork is faxed (**908-888-2335**), completed online through our *Google Form* or *emailed* to lkunick@maschiofood.com for review, the safe substitute menu along with manufacturer ingredient labels will be provided for your approval. When approved, a cross contamination prevention training will be scheduled with the food service staff once the school year begins. Pending all products are accurately delivered after the training has taken place, this process may take several weeks to implement. We recommend that meals be packed from home until the substitute meal is available.

If you decide to allow your child to purchase or receive meals from the cafeteria, manufacturer food labels are available to view on the district's/school menu website. While we do not typically purchase items containing peanuts or tree nuts in most districts, some of our schools may offer peanut butter and jelly sandwiches whether prepacked or otherwise and we cannot guarantee that all items are manufactured in peanut or tree nut free facilities or do not share equipment. You may contact Maschio's for information on brands and product types used in your specific cafeteria, understanding that substitutions, while not likely, may occur. Food labels may also be requested by emailing Lorraine Kunick, MPH, RDN, CHES at lkunick@maschiofood.com.

If you have any questions please contact Lorraine Kunick, MPH, RDN, CHES at (973) 598-0005 or lkunick@maschiofood.com.

Thank you for continuing to work with Maschio's Food Services to keep our students healthy and safe.

Sincerely,
Lorraine Kunick, MPH, RDN, CHES
Director of Nutrition
Maschio's Food Services
lkunick@maschiofood.com



RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL INFORMATION RELATIVE TO FOOD PRODUCTS

With increasing frequency over the past few years, we at Maschio's have received various requests from parents and other interested persons relative to both the ingredients of the food products which we prepare and serve and the medical significance of those food ingredients.

Most of these requests for such information have come from interested parents who understandably are concerned about a medical condition which a child may suffer from and the impact that diet and nutrition may have on that medical condition.

We at Maschio's, of course, would like to assist those inquiring parents to the maximum extent that we can, but we are constrained to advise that there are significant limitations on the responses that we can furnish.

First, we do not independently perform testing with respect to the ingredients of the food products which we prepare and serve nor are we required to by the terms of the Agreement which we enter into with your school district.

The only source of any information that we are able to provide relative to the ingredients of the food products which we prepare and serve is literature which may be furnished to us by the manufacturer or supplier to Maschio's of the involved food product and that information is not independently verified or checked by Maschio's and may or may not be accurate.

Accordingly, although in limited cases we may be in a position to furnish information about the ingredients of the food products which we prepare and serve because that information has been supplied to us by our suppliers, we are not in a position to affirm the accuracy of that information or even to suggest or recommend that it be relied upon by parents.

Second, we, of course, cannot provide medical or nutritional advice regarding the food products which we prepare and serve and accordingly we are not in a position to provide any opinions or conclusions regarding the impact, adverse or otherwise, which any such food product may have on the existing medical condition of a child.

We, of course, will be pleased to provide any interested parent with copies of the menus for the meals which we prepare and serve, but we are not in a position to present any opinions or conclusions regarding the interaction or impact which any of the food products which we prepare and serve may have on the existing medical condition of a child.

Any such medical opinion or conclusion will have to be secured from a physician or another skilled and knowledgeable professional, the professional services of whom are beyond the scope of the service which we provide to your school district.

We at Maschio's, of course, remain committed to providing safe and nutritious meals for your children and we look forward to continuing to cooperate with representatives of your school district and parents to achieve that objective.