

Allergy Management Program in the Branchburg Township Schools Grades 6-8

11. Classrooms that are used for before and after school events may have students consuming food. The same food safety protocols as in #9, are adhered to.
12. Several Board of Education approved social events are sponsored by the Student Council and other school groups. The advisor(s) communicate with the principal and nurse regarding foods served. Food allergic students may bring their own foods to consume.
13. There are no PTO sponsored parties in classrooms. The PTO sponsors an event for each grade level during the school year. PTO leader(s) communicated with the principal and nurse regarding foods served. Food allergic students may bring their own foods to consume.
14. A confidential list of students with food allergies is shared with all staff and kept in a private location in the cafeteria for cafeteria staff to reference.



The CAFETERIA:

At BCMS, the students do not have assigned table seating. This is the first time in their school experience where they can sit wherever they choose to sit and it is a “big deal” to our 6th graders. Upon parent request, students with severe food allergies can opt to have their child sit at a designated NUT-free table (ALLERGY TABLE). Daily, all cafeteria tables are cleaned by the cafeteria staff using the approved cleaning procedures.

However, the option for students to sit at the ALLERGY TABLE eliminates the choice of open seating. We find that most food allergic students do not wish to be segregated at lunch time once they are in middle school and their maturity level allows them to be more independent in monitoring their intake and surroundings. The school staff is made aware of students who have allergies and many staff members are trained as delegates to administer epinephrine (EpiPen) should an anaphylactic event occur.

Parents should consider how they want their child to handle the open seating option at BCMS. If we are aware that your child has a history of severe food allergies, your child will be placed at the ALLERGY TABLE at the start-up of their first school year at BCMS, unless you notify us otherwise. If you prefer that your child NOT sit at the ALLERGY TABLE, here is the [form](#) you must complete, for your child to sit elsewhere in the cafeteria. Until we receive this completed [form](#) back from you, your child will sit at the ALLERGY TABLE.

You may contact **Maschios**, our food services vendor, if you have any questions regarding their served foods. [Maschio's Food Service for Branchburg Schools](#)

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Your Child's Medical Information and Their Medication:

If your child has been identified by their physician to have a history of allergies, here is the **PHYSICIAN'S ORDERS FOR ALLERGY EMERGENCY TREATMENT [FORM](#)** your child's physician (pg 1) and you (pg 2) will need to complete and return to the school nurse with your child's EpiPen/Auvi-Q/Benadryl as indicated on the form.



EpiPen DELEGATES:

Throughout the school building, the school nurse has trained EpiPen delegates to administer epinephrine in the absence of a school nurse in the response to a life-threatening allergic reaction. See second page of **PHYSICIAN'S ORDERS FOR ALLERGY EMERGENCY TREATMENT [FORM](#)**

At BCMS, EpiPens are stored in the cafeteria (1), near the main hallway (2) and in the health/nurse's office (3) at Branchburg Central Middle School.

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Here are just some of the stored EpiPen locations:



Cafeteria



Main Hallway

LEARNING & SELF ADVOCACY:

Now that your child has approached middle school, you will find that our guidelines are less restrictive from their previous experiences at Whiton and Stony Brook Schools. The district's long standing practice of food safety education, prevention and modeling in the lower elementary schools prepares the food allergic student(s) to enter middle school prepared and ready to assume more personal responsibility for their food safety. Our middle school teachers reinforce food safety education and prevention while encouraging middle school students with food allergies to make wise choices in food consumption. The teachers continually promote rapid awareness and action among their peers and students should an anaphylactic event occur.

Finally, throughout your child's school experiences, the school nurses will help to guide your child through the learning process as it pertains to their individual allergies. We will help them to develop the knowledge and skills to self advocate for themselves. They will build an understanding of the names of unsafe foods and what those foods commonly look like. We will teach them how to seek out an adult if they do not feel well and need our help. Our goal for your child is to give them the tools to become self advocates for themselves.

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PARENT/GUARDIAN TIPS:

[Top 8 Food Allergies in Kids and What Parents Need to Know](#)



[Talking to Children About Their Food Allergy](#)



[GOING TO SCHOOL WITH FOOD ALLERGIES](#)



**KIDS WITH
FOOD ALLERGIES**
A Division of the Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of America

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Please reach out to the school nurse in your child's building should you have any further questions not answered in this overview of our ALLERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

The School Nurse at BCMS:

Ling Zhang, RN, BSN, CSN
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220 Baird Rd
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Health Services Website: http://www.branchburg.k12.nj.us/departments/health_services

