

Section	Services	Section#:	4
Sub-section	Community Space	Sub-section #:	4.1
Topic	Food Allergy Policy	Policy :	4.1.4

Policy

In view of the high prevalence of food-related allergies and the potential for severe allergic reactions that may result for some individuals from exposure to certain foods, the Selwyn Public Library Board seeks to minimize this risk to members of the community.

Policy Guidelines

If members of the public are supervising children with allergies, or have allergies themselves, they are asked to remain vigilant and to be aware that the public are allowed to consume snacks and drinks in most areas of the Library.

Members of the public are responsible for monitoring the consumption of food and drinks by children under their supervision.

As the Library is a public and open space, the Library Staff cannot guarantee that the facility will be peanut and nut free; however, patrons are asked to refrain from consuming peanut and nut products in the children's department. Signs are posted in this area to support this policy.

When the Library provides food at programs and events for all ages, staff will strive to source peanut and nut-free food and drinks. To accommodate all individuals with food allergies, staff will have the food labels listing the ingredients available to view. Any parent/guardian of a child with a life-threatening allergy is responsible for providing the Selwyn Public Library program facilitators with detailed information about their child's known allergens, signs and symptoms of an allergic response and the steps to take in an emergency prior to their child starting entering a program. Individuals/parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that they have medications for treatment available.

Note:

The Library cannot guarantee an area or food/drink is peanut and nut-free or that items have not come into contact with allergens. Parents, teachers, and supervisors of young children will be advised if food and drink is offered at a children's program. Caregivers will decide if their children can accept food and drink and not library staff, volunteers, or associated coordinators.

Washroom facilities are available for hand washing.

A sign will be posted at the library entrance to inform the public of the Food Allergy Policy.

History:		
Date of Original Board Motion:	April, 2018	2018.58
Date of Amendments: (if any)		2024.013
Date of Next Review:	2028	