

Medical Diets and Allergens

All references to Juniper within this document refer equally to Juniper Ventures Limited and Juniper Pursuits Limited

Introduction and Policy Statement

Juniper is committed to supporting the provision of a balanced school meal with special dietary requirements whenever possible. This policy and associated forms (Appendices 1 - 3) are essential to provide Juniper with the information required to support the process of ensuring that a safe, medical diet menu is provided for pupils who have a medical condition or an allergy/intolerance.

The establishment of effective risk management procedures minimises the threat to children, staff, and visitors from known trigger foods and ingredients. Central to this is a programme of training and awareness-raising sessions for all of Juniper's catering staff.

Juniper adopts the risk-based approach recommended by the Lead Authority for Catering in Education (LACA) as the national standard for the education catering profession.

Under the national standard, risk is managed through a shared responsibility between the caterer, the school and the parent/ carer of the pupil. All schools will have their own protocols in place which they are responsible for administering. This policy operates in addition to schools' protocols, confirming roles and responsibilities.

This policy applies to all primary, secondary, special educational needs and nursery aged children. Secondary school students will have access to allergen information in line with Natasha's Law (Pre-Packaged for Direct Sale legislation) which is effective from October 2021.

This policy excludes provision of Breakfast, After School Clubs, Packed Lunches and Special Events. Additional referrals will need to be submitted for these meal events.

Natasha's Law

The UK Food Information Amendment, also known as Natasha's Law, comes into effect from October 2021 and will require food businesses to provide full ingredient lists and allergen labelling on foods pre-packaged for direct sale on the premises. The legislation is being introduced to protect allergy sufferers and give them confidence in the food they buy.



This amendment was brought about thanks to the actions of a lobbying group led by the parents of Natasha Ednan-Laperouse, the teenager who died after suffering an allergic reaction to an undeclared ingredient in a prepacked meal. Due to their efforts, the government confirmed that stronger laws would be implemented to protect those with food allergies and give them greater confidence in the food they buy.

According to the new rules, PPDS (Prepacked for Direct Sale) food will have to clearly display the following information on the packaging:

- Name of the food.
- Full ingredients list, with 14 allergenic ingredients emphasised (for example in bold, italics or a different colour).

The 14 ALLERGENS



Celery



Cereals containing
Gluten



Crustaceans



Egg



Fish



Lupin



Milk



Molluscs



Mustard



Nuts



Peanuts



Sesame



Soya



Sulphites

These changes will apply to businesses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Similar changes are expected to be introduced in Scotland by Food Standards Scotland. It is estimated that almost 1 in 5 people in the UK suffer from an allergy.

For Juniper, Natasha's law particularly impacts the secondary pupil's food provision rather than primary and infant settings.

Procedures and Controls

The Medical Diet Referral Form (Appendix 1) must be completed by the SENCO or other appropriate member of school staff and signed by the parent or carer of the pupil requesting the school meal.

Documented evidence (from a medical professional) of the dietary requirement must be attached for the request to be processed. This is an industry-wide standard and is essential for safeguarding children requiring a medical diet.



The following applies to the medical evidence:

1. It should be provided by a medical professional source i.e., medical doctor, registered dietitian, Nurse or NHS medical professional.
2. School composed care plans, commercial laboratory reactivity results and homeopathic results **will not** be accepted.
3. Updated medical evidence **must be** provided if an existing medical condition requires additional or reduced adjustments.

The referral form and necessary medical evidence must be emailed by the school to medical.diets@juniperventures.co.uk via EGRESS encrypted email system.

Once the referral form has been received, an individualised meal plan and single choice menu will be created by our qualified dietitian to meet the needs of the pupil. A meeting will take place between the school, Juniper and parent/ carer if required.

A copy of the approved menu will be issued to the school who will in turn provide a copy for the parent/ carer for approval or review by completing the Medical Diet – Sign Off Form (Appendix 2).

The sign off form must be emailed by the school to medical.diets@juniperventures.co.uk via EGRESS encrypted email system.

The Juniper Area Manager will then brief the Chef Manager of the agreed medical diet menu and agree a date for when this will become effective.

When the menu is updated, the pupil's medical diet menu will automatically be reviewed and updated.

Due to an increasing demand for medical diet menus, the lead time for new and adjusted referrals is 3-5 weeks if all appropriate information is provided. It will always be the intention of Juniper to attempt to provide an appropriate agreed menu in a shortest period possible.

Whilst a request is being processed, pupils should bring their own packed lunch.

In the absence of a packed lunch if a referral has been received, then a plain Jacket Potato option may be made available.



Medical diet referrals received after February Half term will only be processed for the Spring/Summer Menu.

Medical diet referrals received after September will only be processed for the Autumn/Winter Menu.

A medical diet will continue to be provided for future menu cycles until we receive confirmation that there is no longer a requirement.

Juniper will not be responsible for gradual re-introduction of food groups.

Schools must complete Medical Diets Update Form (Appendix 3) by mid-January for Spring/Summer menu and July for Autumn/ Winter menu.

Schools should ensure that new September starters with a medical diet requirement have supplied appropriate documentation by 1st July.

Parents/carers and schools must be aware that there may be occasions when it is not possible to provide an appropriate meal for a child due to their complex needs or high-risk allergens and a packed lunch from home may be in the best interest of the child.

Juniper will always use its best endeavours to reduce risk of cross contamination from allergens and the like within the provision of medical diet menus. It is not possible to guarantee that there will never be incidents of accidental cross contamination from shared or external food. All schools should be aware of these risks and do everything possible to mitigate them.

Lunchtime Service

Schools should provide a lanyard with a photo of the child with the details of the food exclusion required.

For Pupils deemed to be high risk, the school should escort the pupil to the counter. All pupils requiring an adrenaline auto injector (AAI) are considered high risk.

Special Diets exclude self service areas and so it is recommended that pupils are escorted to salad bars.

Nuts Statement

Juniper make every best endeavour to ensure that all our recipes are nut free and that we do not use any nut related products in our dishes.



May Contain Statement

Juniper is unable to guarantee that all the ingredients are sourced from 100% nut free (and other allergens) factories. Our suppliers are also unable to give such guarantees.

Roles and Responsibilities

Juniper

- Vetting and quality control of suppliers.
- Liaison with schools and parents/carers.
- Allergy Training for all existing staff.
- Provision of suitably qualified dietician.
- Provision of Medical Diet Menu.
- Provision of Medical Diet Meals.
- Completing an Allergy Policy.
- Offering schools an Allergy and Medical Needs Risk Assessment if required.
- Inducting new staff, including those supplied by an agency, on the Allergy and Medical Needs risk assessment and school set up procedures and school information training.
- Reporting and investigating all near misses/incidents to prevent re-occurrence and liaising with school.
- Raising any concerns with the School

School

- Completing an Allergy and Medical Needs Risk Assessment for allergy management/managing pupils with medical needs and sharing with Juniper and Parent/Carer.
- Ensuring risk assessments/care plans are updated and shared if any changes occur.
- Reporting and investigating all near misses/incidents to prevent re-occurrence and liaising with Juniper.
- Inform Parent/ Carer of Juniper Medical Diet Policy
- Act as intermediary between Juniper and Parent/Carer
- School is the data controller and Juniper will keep them informed of how Juniper uses any data and when it will be destroyed.
- Ensure all forms are completed accurately.
- Ensure appropriate medical evidence is provided to Juniper.
- Share all documentation and supporting evidence with Juniper.
- Update Juniper with Medical Diet requirements prior to each menu cycle.




- Update Juniper with September starters Medical Diet documentation by 1st July.
- Provide Juniper with a copy of their policy for protecting those pupils with a need for a medical diet.
- Provide Lanyard to pupils with Medical Diet Menus detailing food exclusions.
- Escort High Risk pupils to service counter.
- Escort pupils to salad bar.
- Deploying auto-adrenaline injectors (AAI) if required.

Parent/ Carer

- Submission of Medical Diet – Referral Form.
- Submission of Supporting Medical Evidence.
- Submission of Medical evidence supporting the reintroduction of foods or ingredients to diet.
- Provide Photo for Lanyard.
- Provide a packed lunch if required.

Appendix 4 illustrates the procedure for medical diet referrals.

Policy or Procedure Title	Medical Diets and Allergens
Date Adopted by Board of Directors	30 th July 2021
Date last reviewed by Managing Director	11 th June 2021
Signed Off By Managing Director	

Attached

Appendix 1 - Medical Diet – Referral Form

Appendix 2 - Medical Diet Sign Off Form

Appendix 3 - Medical Diets Update Form

Appendix 4 - Medical Diet Referral Process

