

# Develop allergy-aware environments

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Create inclusive systems' from the Guide:

[Allergies and learning](#)

- 
- Includes:**
- Develop allergy-aware environments
  - Value whānau expertise
  - Work in partnership
  - Food bans
  - Respect privacy
  - Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Allergies and learning](#)

Strategy: [Create inclusive systems](#)

Suggestion: [Develop allergy-aware environments](#)

Date

30 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/allergies-and-learning/develop-allergy-aware-environments](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/allergies-and-learning/develop-allergy-aware-environments)

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## Develop allergy-aware environments



Source:

Ministry of Education

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# Value whānau expertise

Attitudes to allergies will differ across and within communities, families, and cultural groups.

- ✓ Involve parents and learners (when age appropriate) in all levels of policy and procedure reviews focused on allergies.
- ✓ Support parents by providing notice of upcoming food events so they can contribute.
- ✓ Listen to the concerns of parents, whānau, and caregivers – provide multiple ways of communicating with your learning community (newsletters, parents’ meetings, social media, and posters).
- ✓ Engage your learning community in building an understanding of allergies, particularly of life-threatening anaphylaxis.
- ✓ Explicitly seek out parent, whānau, and learner voice and ask, “What would help?”
- ✓ Make time for frequent and regular conversations with parents and whānau to learn more about effective safety strategies.
- ✓ Recognise the emotional impact allergies can have on families and encourage their contributions.

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## Work in partnership

Getting relief from allergies at school is a combination of things – you can't pop a pill and be done with it. It involves a lot of teamwork, and a combination of awareness, avoidance measures, and medication.

**Gina Shaw, Pediatric asthma and allergy specialist**

Source:

[WebMD](#)

<https://www.webmd.com/allergies/features/allergies-at-school#1>

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## Food bans

Banning food is not recommended.

Removing food from early learning services should occur only following recommendation from a relevant medical specialist and the provision of documentation of this recommendation.

For more information refer to:

- [ASCIA guidelines for prevention of anaphylaxis in schools, pre-schools and childcare: 2015 update](#)
- [Allergy and Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Schools and Kura 2022](#)

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## Respect privacy

Consider the privacy of children and young people when displaying personal health information.

Discuss where action plans will be displayed and address any concerns with the:

- parents of identified children and young people
- young person themselves (depending on their age).

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## Useful resources



### Allergy NZ- ECE service

Read time: 6 min

These guidelines will help with minimising risk for children in ECE environments.

[Visit website](#)



### Food allergy education for the community

This website provides support, information, and resources to support food allergy education.

[Visit website](#)

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