



Special Diet Procedure Guide





Introduction

Here at The Pantry, special diets are a very important part of our service to our schools. We are dedicated to ensuring that every pupil has the opportunity to eat a school dinner if they want to regardless of any medical requirements they may have.

A special diet is a requirement of needing a different main menu choice due to an allergy. Lifestyle choices are not included in this category, we work hard to ensure that our main menu offers a variety of food to cater for these needs, for example a vegetarian diet.

We have our own nutrition team who are dedicated to support all special diet requests and queries you may have. They are on hand to lessen any concerns held and create a special diet menu solely for your child and their safety. They are available both before issuing a special diet menu and after it has been issued for any questions you may have and to support our catering teams with producing this menu safely.

For further information please contact our nutrition team on

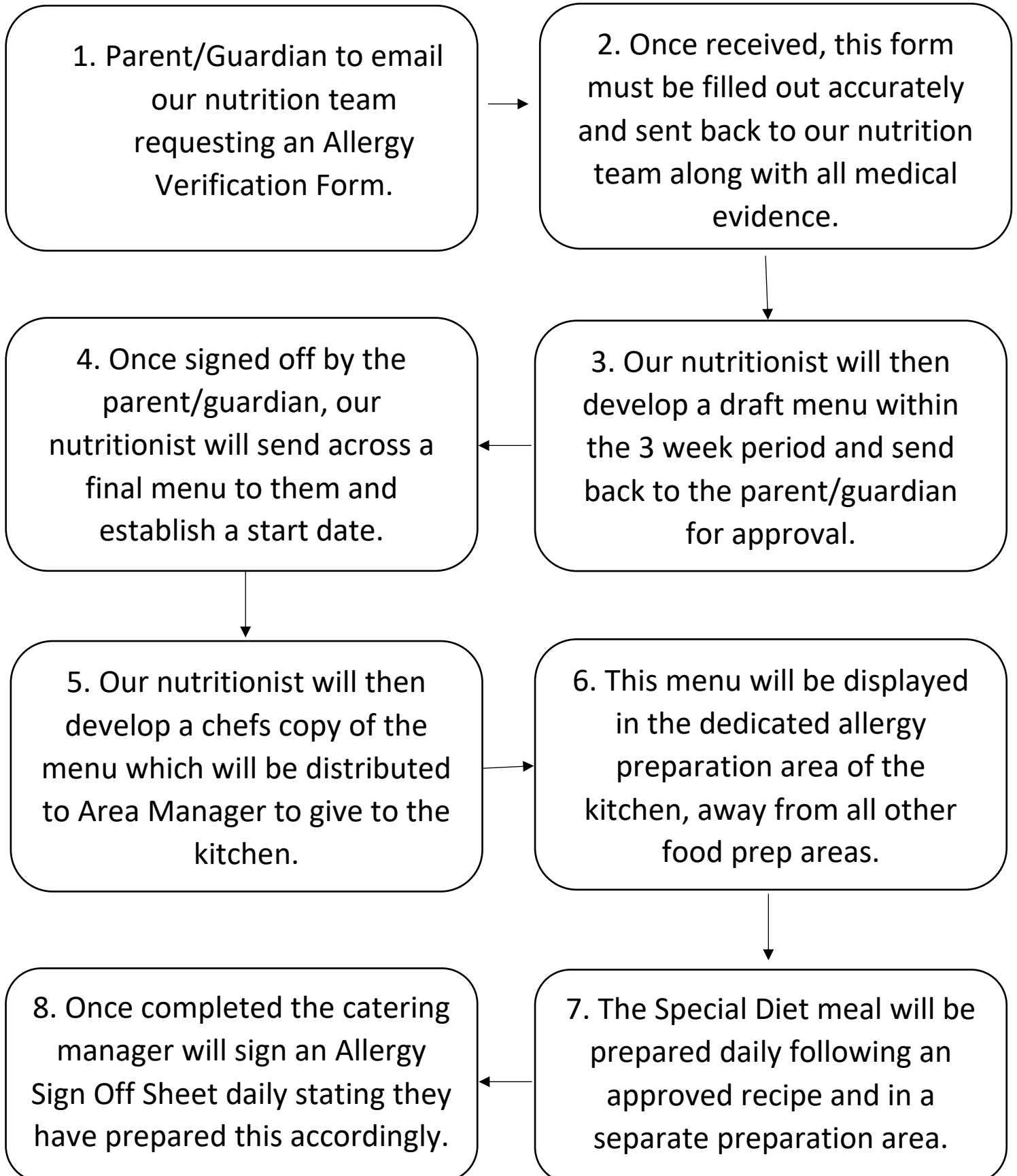
nutrition@thepantrycatering.co.uk

The Basics

Who Is Involved?	What Do You Need?	What Will You Receive?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pantry Nutrition Team ○ Parent/Guardian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pupil ○ School ○ Area Manager ○ Catering Manager ○ Catering Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allergy Verification Form ○ Medical Evidence ○ Pantry Nutrition Contact Details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pantry Nutrition Team Support ○ Special Diet



The Process





Nutrition Counts

Including in The Pantry's special diet procedure we can also provide nutrition counts for the following;

- **Carbohydrate Counts (For Diabetes)**
- **Fat Counts (For Cystic Fibrosis)**
- **Protein Counts (For PKU)**

These are all carefully calculated by our nutrition team and will be sent for authorisation before actioned in the kitchen.



Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) Why is medical evidence required?**
Medical evidence confirming the allergy is required to ensure the ultimate safety of a child. We must know the full allergy as disclosed by your medical professional to provide a safe menu for the pupil.
- 2) What if I cannot provide medical evidence?**
If you cannot provide any medical evidence, The Pantry will not be able to proceed with a special diet menu. This is for the safety of the pupil and our team.
- 3) How long does the process take from start to finish?**
As soon as the medical evidence is provided there is a three week turn around to get the first menu draft sent across. From this point it will be dependent on the speed of response how quickly we can input a start date in the kitchen.
- 4) What food will be provided during the turn around time?**
Whilst waiting for an approved special diet menu, the pupil will be provided with a plain jacket potato & vegetables. Alternatively in the meantime they can bring in a pack lunch from home.
- 5) What if a pupil does not like a recipe on the special diet menu?**
Our special diet options are used across a number of our schools and their pupils, which means catering for individual dislikes safely is not something we can do. We do however try our hardest to keep a special diet menu as in line with our main menu as possible.