

Allergy matters

In the news

Are you ready for December 13th 2014?

Caterers are legally obliged to control allergens in the foods they sell and from December 13th they will also be required to provide accurate information on the allergen status of the dishes to their customers. – SafeFood have produced 3 video resources for catering staff accessible here:

<http://www.safefood.eu/Professional/Food-Science/Resources/Managing-Allergens-in-Catering-See-how-it-s-done.aspx>

FSAI have also added this link

<http://www.fsai.ie/faq/allergens.html#resources> to their existing Food Allergy information.

IFAN's 2013 regional education meetings: 6 month on.

Over 600 attended a total of 12 venues nationwide. Six months on 99% of respondents reported an increase in knowledge of food allergy, 92% of respondents reported an increase in their level of confidence in assessing and addressing food allergy 47% reported starting to request skin prick or specific IgE tests or suggest that they should be requested.

36% reported they had started to manage any cases they might previously have not, or, that they might have referred onwards or elsewhere, 89% reported referring to content at www.ifan.ie In the same 6 month period the website has had over 4000 unique visitors.

Engaging with and educating primary care health staff is IFAN's main goal for 2014. IFAN had a presence at both Spring and Autumn Croke Park Hot Topic Events aimed at GP's and has provided education to 3 regional Community Nutrition departments encompassing over 40 Dietitians.



Food allergy in childcare and school

When any child is at risk of anaphylaxis; education and basic training should be available for parents, teenagers, carers, preschool staff, primary and secondary school staff.

Training should: empower parents, carers, school staff with knowledge on allergies and allergy avoidance; enable them to recognize and respond to anaphylaxis, and, put in place an allergy management plan for each child.

Training relies on having available resources locally. It is worth making contact with local Community, School and Public Health Teams who may be in a position to provide training.

A copy of "Managing Chronic Health conditions at school" shown left includes useful information and every school has received a copy.

It can be also be accessed here: <http://ifan.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/AI-Schools.pdf>

IFAN has produced a 1-page pdf for "Managing an allergic reaction" which can be downloaded [here](#) or by visiting <http://ifan.ie/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Safety-Plan.pdf>

IFAN would like to hear of any successes or difficulties that you have had as we want to know the challenges that have been met and overcome while we work within our own resources to develop certifiable and legally acceptable training programmes.

Please respond to this short anonymous Survey Monkey poll: would you avail of training, would you be willing to travel and how much would you expect to pay for it.

Please click [here](#) or visit

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/IFAN>

