



De Soto School District #73

Health Services Department

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Athena Elementary-3775 Athena School Rd, De Soto, MO 63020

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Junior High-731 Amvets Dr., De Soto, MO 63020

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High School-815 Amvets Dr., De Soto, MO 63020

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Early Childhood Center-1812 Rock Rd., De Soto, MO 63020

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February 24, 2015

Parent and/or Guardian,

On February 19, the FDA issued a consumer alert to **people who are highly allergic or sensitive to peanuts**, advising these individuals to **avoid products that contain ground cumin or cumin powder**, due to the fact that some shipments of these products have tested positive for undeclared peanut protein. While there have been some product recalls issued, the regulatory agency investigation and trace-forward activities are still underway.

Chartwells, the districts' food service program, takes the health of our students very seriously, and is taking the necessary precautions to ensure students with peanut allergies are not exposed to potential allergens.

Since it is not possible to determine which products containing cumin have been contaminated, Chartwells will be removing all cumin-containing recipes and ingredients from menus for students with peanut allergies.

For any meals prepared for students with documented peanut allergies, Chartwells is ensuring that all recipes and products served to these students do not contain cumin ingredients. This action will remain in place until further direction is provided by the FDA. Please feel free to contact Dixie Harden, Director of Dining Services, at 636-586-4023, should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Dawn Brown, R.N.
Vineland Elementary Nurse
Lead Nurse