



Food Safety Conversation No13: Allergens

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Key Learning

Understanding and following the allergen procedures will ensure the safety of your customers and potentially avoid serious injury or death due to allergic reactions

There are 14 major food allergens which must be declared. However. people can be allergic to any food or ingredient, such as pea protein, stone fruit or coconut.









What You Need To Know















- ☐ A food allergy happens when the immune system triggers a reaction to a food or ingredient (allergen), causing symptoms such as rashes, swelling, breathing difficulty and anaphylaxis, Symptoms usually develop very quickly and can be fatal.
- ☐ A food intolerance is an adverse reaction to food or ingredient which doesn't involve the immune system. Symptoms include stomach upsets, bloating and headaches and usually develop more slowly.

Avoiding Allergen Cross-Contact

- ☐ Use separate chopping boards and utensils for each dish.
- ☐ Clean down work surfaces, equipment and your hands between handling know allergen containing foods and before preparing an allergen free meal.
- ☐ Keep opening dry goods in sealed containers or tightly covered.
- ☐ Use separate fryers for known allergen foods (e.g. scampi / battered fish) and non allergen foods (e.g. chips)
- ☐ Use separate cooking equipment / utensils when cooking an known allergen free item

Kitchen Process



















HACCP Stages

- Food Storage
- **Cross Contamination**
- Preparation
- Cooking
- Service
- Hospitality

Colleague Validation

- Explain the differences between an allergic reaction and an intolerance?
- 2. What are the 14 major food allergens?
- 3. Why is it important to follow a recipe without making any changes?
- 4. Give examples of how can you avoid allergen cross-contact?
- 5. How do we inform customers of what allergen ingredients are in a menu item?

More Information

More information can be found within the Good Hygiene Practice Guide No: 13 Allergens and the HSE website

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