

Camp TAG (The Allergy Gang) (ages 4-12) provides a safe place for children with food allergies and eosinophilic disorders and their siblings to have fun – with no worries about allergic reactions – and meet other children who share similar experiences. It is a bonding and empowering week for all campers, including parents.

Peer-to-Peer Education Programs are under development for youth and teens, with assistance from healthcare professionals along with youth/teens who want their voices to be heard. **FAACT** is also developing peer-to-peer education programs for key age demographics through Advisory Councils for College/Young Adults (ages 18-24) and Adults (ages 25+) with food allergies.

CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCACY IN SCHOOLS

FAACT educates and informs food-allergic individuals of their rights to safely and equally participate alongside non-allergic individuals at school. The U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, and the U.S. Department of Justice have determined that food allergies may be deemed a disability that requires accommodation under federal disability laws and regulations. **FAACT's** Civil Rights Advocacy Resource Center puts these laws, regulations, and agency opinions at your fingertips as well as resources and tools to assist food-allergic individuals in seeking accommodations. Because laws vary by jurisdiction and agency policies vary by state and locality, local professionals are often the best experts on these varying laws and policies. **FAACT** can help you find local civil rights professionals.



BECOME A **FAACT** PATRON

FAACT is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing education about food allergies and anaphylaxis and enhancing the safety of children and adults worldwide affected by food allergies and anaphylaxis.

As a Patron, you are supporting the 15 million Americans who have food allergies – 6 million of whom are children. You are providing education and outreach materials to individuals and families who need our help. You are connecting with other people who live it and get it. And you are ensuring that the voices of people living with food allergies and anaphylaxis will continue to be heard by decision-makers across the country.



AWARENESS • ADVOCACY • EDUCATION

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The Voice of Food Allergy Awareness

Whether you are newly diagnosed or a long-time member of the food allergy community, the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Connection Team (**FAACT**) is your home for education, advocacy, and connections with other parents and adults affected by food allergies and life-threatening anaphylaxis. **FAACT** is here to support you in managing your food allergies – today, tomorrow, and into the future.

FAACT's mission is to educate, advocate, and raise awareness for all individuals and families affected by food allergies and life-threatening anaphylaxis. Whether it's keeping children safe at school, responding to food allergy bullying, dealing with workplace issues, or simply taking the family out for a bite to eat, we have all the facts you need to manage food allergies and stay healthy.

FOOD ALLERGY BASICS

- Food allergies affect approximately 15 million Americans, including 6 million children.
- A food allergy is an immune system response to a food the body mistakenly believes is harmful.
- When a person with food allergy eats a certain food, his or her immune system releases massive amounts of chemicals that trigger a cascade of symptoms that can affect the respiratory system, the gastrointestinal tract, the skin, and/or the cardiovascular system.
- There is no cure for food allergies.
- The prevalence of food allergies appears to be increasing among children under the age of 18.
- Although food allergy desensitizations are being studied, these are not yet proven treatments, so strict avoidance is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction.
- Managing a food allergy on a daily basis involves constant vigilance.
- Trace amounts of an allergen can trigger an allergic reaction in some individuals.

ANAPHYLAXIS

- Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that comes on quickly and has the potential to become life-threatening.
- Symptoms can develop rapidly after exposure to an allergen, often within minutes and usually within 30 minutes. However, it can take up to 2 hours for symptoms to occur after exposure to a food allergen.
- Sometimes a second round (or “phase”) of allergic reactions can occur after the initial anaphylactic reaction. This is called “biphasic anaphylaxis.” A second reaction may happen as early as an hour after the first reaction or as long as 72 hours later (the average is 10 hours later) and can be less severe, as severe, or even more severe than the initial reaction.
- Anaphylaxis must be treated immediately with epinephrine (adrenaline).
- 9-1-1 must ALWAYS be called for every anaphylactic reaction.

Prompt administration of epinephrine is crucial to surviving a potentially life-threatening anaphylactic reaction. Epinephrine has very few side effects. It is prescribed as an auto-injector device (Adrenaclick®, Auvi-Q®, EpiPen®).

TIPS FOR THE NEWLY DIAGNOSED

Were you or your child just diagnosed with a food allergy? Did you know that 15 million Americans live with food allergies? The team at **FAACT** is here to support you as you learn to live a food-allergic lifestyle and manage your food allergy. You are not alone. Very few people are not directly or indirectly affected by food allergies. Having a food allergy does not have to be an overwhelming experience. We want you to view your food allergy as a manageable hurdle that you can overcome. **FAACT** can provide you with basic survival tips to help make living with food allergy as easy as possible.



EDUCATION

FAACT provides food allergy and anaphylaxis outreach, training, and support to public and professional communities, including grassroots organizations, schools, restaurants, hospitals, allergists, pediatricians, healthcare providers, CPR instructors, first responders, fire departments, paramedics, and other members of the community. We educate the general public about food allergies and anaphylaxis through conferences, trainings, webinars, public outreach, community and professional partnerships, social media, our Web site and blogs, and other means. **FAACT's** Web site features an Education Resource Center for patient and professional communities with free and downloadable educational materials.

PROGRAMS

FAACT's Annual Food Allergy Conferences provide full days of educational sessions led by leading medical professionals and food allergy advocates. The conferences offer education and support for parents, grandparents, school personnel, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and teens.

FAACT's Teen Conference (ages 11-23) is a weekend all about teens and college students, their siblings, and their parents. The weekend offers an informative program full of fun activities. Teens will learn about managing their food allergies and, more importantly, spend time with peers who have food allergies (and siblings who do not).