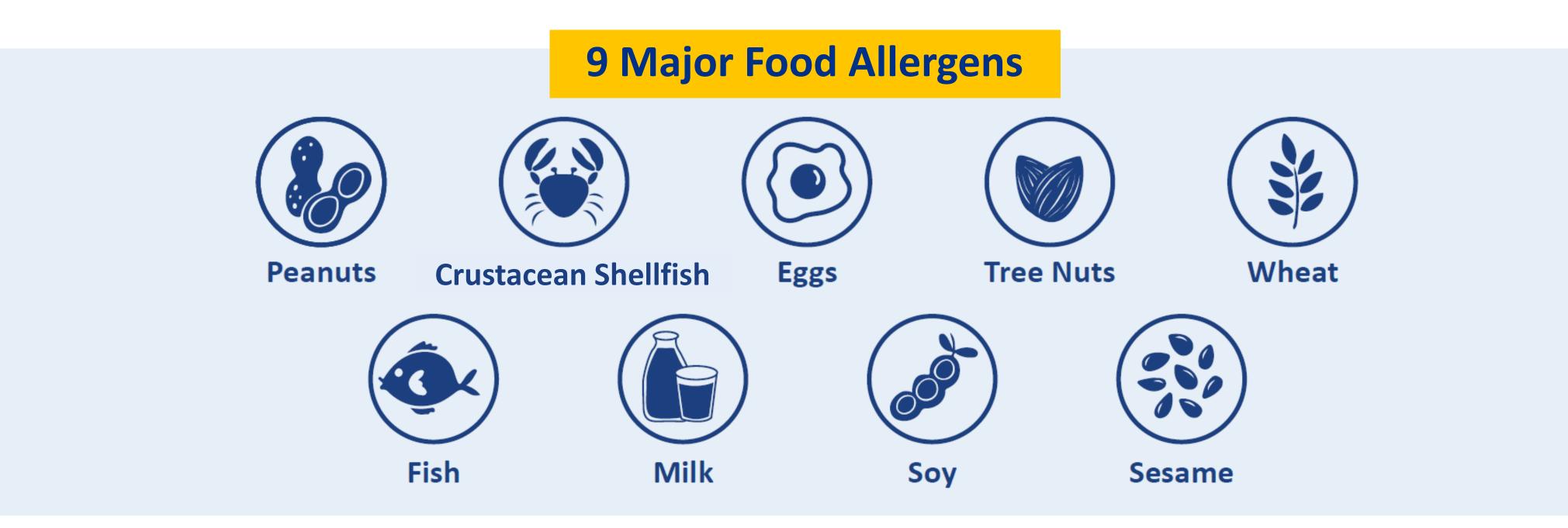
Food Service Employee Allergen Awareness

Texas Department of State Health Services | Consumer Protection Division | Food & Drug Section | Retail Food Safety Operations

Food allergens present a **SERIOUS** health risk to you and your customers and may even cause **DEATH**. Yet some simple actions can assure that you and your customers are fully informed, and that everyone has a safe experience. An allergic reaction is an immune system response. In some people, a food allergy can cause severe symptoms or even a life-threatening reaction known as *anaphylaxis*.



Symptoms of an Allergic Reaction

- Hives
- Flushed skin or rash
- Tingling or itchy sensation in mouth
- Face, tongue,
- and/or lip swelling
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Abdominal cramps
- **Response to Allergic Reaction**

Call 911 and seek emergency medical attention!

- Tell the person experiencing any of these symptoms to stop eating the food immediately.
- If the person has emergency medication, like *epinephrine*, and needs to use it, <u>trained</u> food service employees may assist the person to administer the medication.

Procedures for Preventing an Allergic Reaction

1. Food Service Employee Awareness:

- Be familiar with the current menu.
- Be able to identify all major food allergens used in the food establishment.

- Coughing or wheezing
- Dizziness and/or lightheadedness
- Swelling of throat and/or vocal cords
- Difficulty breathing
- Loss of consciousness

- action 2. Prevent Cross-Contact of Allergens:
- Use different cutting surfaces before and after handling food with allergens.
- Clean and sanitize equipment and food contact surfaces before
- Contact your supervisor for necessary allergen information.

Food Allergy Risk Factors

- Cross-contact of allergens with food not containing allergens
- Age

and after handling food with allergens.

- Wash hands and change gloves before and after handling potential food allergens.
- Lack of menu information
- Asthma
- Family history



Texas Department of State Health Services

- Lack of knowledge
- Other allergies