## **Guidelines for Managing Food Allergies**

## Sesame Allergies

Remember to ALWAYS read food labels carefully and watch for hidden allergens. Hidden allergens are ingredients derived from or containing major food allergens with common names that may be unfamiliar to consumers. Foods of ingredients to AVOID **if allergic to sesame:** (This is not an exhaustive list.)

- Benne, benne seed, benniseed
- Gingelly, gingelly oil\*
- Gomasio (sesame salt)
- Halvah, halwah
- Sesame flour
- Sesame oil\*
- Sesame paste

- Sesame seed
- Sesamol
- Sesamum indicum
- Sesemolina
- Sim sim
- Tahini, tahina, tehina



Til



Katheryn Parraga, Muscle Food Safety Extension Specialist

Joell Eifert, Extension Specialist

H. Lester Schonberger,

Associate Extension Specialist

Food Science and Technology Department, Virginia Tech

## May also contain sesame:

Baked goods Bread crumbs Cereals Chips Crackers Dipping sauces (Hummus) Dressings, gravies, marinades, and sauces Desserts (Pasteli, Sim sim, Halvah) Falafel

Flavored noodles and rice Margarine Meats and sausages Protein energy bars Soups Sushi Tempeh Vegetarian burgers

**Cuisines:** Chinese, Egyptian, French, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Indian, Italian, Israeli, Lebanese, Mexican, Turkish, Ugandan, Vietnamese.

Note: \*When oils are highly refined most people with food allergies can safely eat them. However, sesame oil is not usually highly refined, so it is recommended to avoid sesame oil if you have an allergy to sesame.

Contacting the oil manufacturer may be the only way to know if the oil is free from the allergenic protein.

Please note that in packaged foods prior to January 1, 2023, sesame was not required to be labeled as an allergen. If allergic and unsure whether a food product contains sesame, it is best to avoid that food or contact the manufacturer for more information.

## Visit Virginia Cooperative Extension: ext.vt.edu

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.

VCE/0523/FST-499NP