

To Whom It May Concern,

My 9 year old son has an anaphylactic allergy to peanuts and treenuts. He always carries an epi-pen on him, as well as one in his backpack. I also have one in my purse. So when we travel, we usually have at least 3 epi-pens on us, in case he has a reaction while he is several thousand feet up in an airplane. I do feel that as a family we are well covered in case of an emergency, but I think it would be great to see the CTA require various modes of public transport to have epi-pens on board with employees trained on how to use them.

1. Two years ago, my son, while continuing to test positive to a peanut allergy, tested negative to tree nut allergies. Just this past month, he has been retested and has unfortunately tested positive for tree nut allergies as well. Anaphylactic allergies can develop without an individual realizing, and an easy solution of having an epi-pen handy can easily save someone's life - in this case, a situation where access to hospital's is not readily available while travelling.

2. Also, I expressed my concern to Westjet that they were no longer carrying epi-pens on board. They replied that they will be carrying epinephrine instead. After talking to my son's allergist about this, he informed me that it is very difficult to give epinephrine to an individual in an emergency situation, as you need to factor in the individual's weight, etc, and only a trained medical personnel with lots of practice can do so quickly and effectively in such a situation. I realize Westjet may have made their decision due to the cost of epi-pens, versus epinephrine, but it seems to me that unless you happened to have a willing and trained doctor on board with the knowledge of the person's weight, the epinephrine is useless in an emergency situation.

I appreciate you requesting public input on this issue. I hope my insights on it can help in your decision.

Sincerely,
Ashley Donohoe