

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am writing to you in response to the CTS consultation request from the public regarding input on how to accommodate passengers with food allergies in areas of air and train travel.

I have an 8 year old son who is severely allergic to peanuts who was diagnosed with Anaphylaxis when he was 3 years old. As you know, Anaphylaxis is fatal and medical assistance is required within seconds of ingestion of the allergen.

For the past 5 years, it has been a moment of high anxiety for me and my wife when travelling on vacation somewhere by airplane. Since there is no legislation to ban peanuts and other allergens on airplanes, we come prepared with 2 epipens and many packages of wipes each flight. My wife and I wipe down all areas of our seating with alcohol wipes to ensure that there is no residual peanut oil remaining on the seatbelts, arm rests, seats, tray tables etc. prior to sitting down. We then quarantine our son from walking anywhere or touching anything throughout the flight. This was more difficult when he was younger but we still have to keep an eye on him to make sure he doesn't put his fingers in his mouth. Throughout the flight, we are at a high level of stress until we land at our destination.

We are effectively travelling at 35,000 feet in isolation of medical doctors and EMS people for a number of hours in an airplane with a chance that my son will accidentally ingest a small amount of peanut oil from seatbelts, arm rests, seats, tray tables etc. and go into anaphylaxis shock. With the current legislation, we are effectively putting our son at risk of his life every time he boards an airplane. I don't feel that this is fair to my son or any other passengers with severe peanut allergies.

As a parent of a severely allergic son, I cannot stress the importance of banning peanuts and all other allergens from all air and train travel. The school systems in Ontario have listened and have banned all such allergens at schools. I can't see why air and train travel cannot ban them as well especially since peanuts and other allergens are not foods that people must eat on a regular basis for dietary or health reasons. I would be pleased to discuss further my above experience at your convenience.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this very important matter to me and my family.

Best regards,

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