

To whom it may concern at the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA):

I am writing to share my support of broad-based requirements across all modes of transportation for people with food allergies. Our family, including our teenage son with multiple food allergies, has traveled frequently for more than a dozen years by air, rail, ferry and bus. While we have taken steps to help our son self-protect and be responsible for his allergies, the implementation of appropriate accommodations on the various modes of transportation would be an added safeguard.

The mitigation strategies outlined for air travel, including a buffer zone or seat reassignment, announcement to other passengers, and pre-boarding to allow time for cleaning one's seat, can be adapted for other modes of transportation. I believe that these steps would make our family feel safer when traveling. It would also be helpful for carriers to list allergy-related policies and procedures on their websites so that people can make informed decisions when making travel arrangements.

Practices such as staff training and education on food allergies and anaphylaxis, risk reduction measures, recognition of signs and symptoms, and an understanding of how to respond to an emergency situation, including the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector, are optimal. Stock epinephrine is also an important consideration as it may be needed by someone who is experiencing their first reaction or requiring an additional dose of this life-saving medication.

I am encouraged by this consultation process and hope that the regulations and standards for transportation are updated to provide greater accessibility to individuals with disabilities, including people with food allergies.

Sincerely,
J. Huang