

It is terrifying to be anaphylactic to nut products on a city bus, school bus, VIA rail, go train, ferry and airplane, basically any public transportation is a life threatening situation. The scariest are the planes, trains and boats which take longer to get the required medical attention and the risk is greater due to the confined quarters. It is a scary challenge to travel on public means with a child who may die at the ingestion or touch of a nut product.

I have frequently asked passengers around us to please refrain from opening nut products and have been met with a wide range of reactions. The public exposure to the seriousness of the situation is lacking, hence the uncooperativeness at times. Those that do respond positively usually tell me they have a family member with a nut allergy and they are quite compliant.

The issue is beyond just opening and eating the product. The issue is the spreading of the nut products to table tops, seat arms and backs, washroom doors, locks and taps. As much as you can carry wipes and clean a table top and arms of the chairs, it is impossible to clean everything an adult or child may touch. It is also quite a challenge to have a child not touch anything until Mom cleans it during the boarding process of an airplane or train.

Any movement towards eliminating nut products provided by the transportation company and passenger personal food opened on a public transportation vehicle would be hugely appreciated by those with nut allergies or those accountable for children with nut allergies. Really, it just makes sense to do so.

Canada should be setting the world standard on anaphylactic prevention in public transportation. That would make me proud to be a Canadian.

Jennifer McFarling