

Thank you for the opportunity to give feedback. I believe that we need clear policies so that people who are allergic are not arbitrarily denied access to transportation (such as being put off a flight for no clear reason). Clear expectations for both the passenger and the airline are needed.

I am concerned that according to experts in the field of allergy management -- specifically Food Allergy Canada and Allergic Living Magazine -- the current recommendations for allergy accomodation fall short of the mark.

<http://allergicliving.com/2016/09/15/analysis-canadian-airlines-report-misses-the-mark-on-in-flight-allergy-risks/>

<http://foodallergycanada.ca/2016/08/new-report-canadian-transportation-agency-air-travel-food-allergies/>

I think too much pressure is put on people with life-threatening allergies and their families; their safety needs to be in partnership with the airline staff. For instance, carrying stock EpiPens, cleaning off the seat, making an announcement and providing a buffer zone should be done in accordance with the recommendations outlined in the links above.

I also think that airline staff need to be trained that allergies are a disability. No flight attendant would dream of demeaning a person in a wheelchair in the way that some airline staff abuses people with allergies. They also need to be trained that people with allergies are often subject to abuse by other passengers and it is those passengers that need to be dealt with and treated as disruptive, not a disabled child. To put this in perspective, can you imagine people cheering if a child had the misfortune to have a seizure and had to be removed from a plane? Yet this is an all too common story for people with allergies:

<http://news.nationalpost.com/news/world/passengers-laugh-and-cheer-as-seven-year-old-forced-to-leave-u-s-flight-over-allergic-reaction-to-dog>

<http://www.nonuttraveler.com/>

There are even instances of this in entertainment; for instance the comedian Ricky Gervais recently made a "joke" that he would like to secretly murder an allergic woman on his flight by rubbing nuts on his skin before the flight to "see her blow up".

Ignorance and discrimination present a real danger to allergic people (if fellow passengers ignore requests not to consume allergens or staff do not follow best practices), as well as creating heightened anxiety about being able to freely access transportation -- a basic human right.

My seven year old daughter has severe peanut and nut allergies; we are hoping to go on our our first airline vacation next year. I will do whatever airline or other transportation staff require us to do to meet our responsibilities as her parents. However, I think we need clear federal guidelines so that I know what I can expect from the airline and they know what they can expect from me. It seems very confusing at present. I also expect my child to be treated with respect.

With thanks,

LJ Buckley