

Good day,

I am a 30 year old female with anaphylactic allergies to peanuts & tree nuts. This includes airborne exposure (breathing it in).

As an adult I can manage my own consumption of food and plan accordingly as it's not worth the risk of eating something unknown and having an allergic reaction (which could potentially be fatal).

Public transit can be tricky to navigate. It is much easier in places where they encourage no food on public transit (e.g. Vancouver) or where there is space so you can walk away if someone begins eating your allergen (e.g. subway or GO trains). Most of the public is accommodating if you start a conversation and ask them to temporarily refrain from eating your allergen however, in an enclosed space there is not always that luxury of time and safety.

Air transit is by far the most challenging for someone with airborne allergies and where regulations/standards would be most helpful. Because an aircraft is an enclosed space where you can not walk away, the air is recirculated, and medical services are not close by, encountering an allergen in this situation can be risky and life-threatening. In my situation, exposure to an allergen can make my throat swell leaving me unable to breathe and I can go into anaphylactic shock.

West Jet is the leader in accommodating allergies. They make pre-boarding and on-board announcements, speak to guests in surrounding aisles and do not serve nut products on board. I applaud their accommodation efforts.

Thank you.

Michelle McCaffrey