

Hello,

I am writing in response to The Canadian Transportation Agency's request for public input on how to accommodate passengers with food allergies in all areas of travel: air, ferry, rail, and bus.

Our 7 year old daughter has an anaphylactic allergy to both peanuts and tree nuts. She has had one anaphylactic emergency, at 5 years old, which took place when a child on her school bus brought reeces-pieces (peanut filled) candy onto the bus. As her parent, I can not begin to explain to you how stressful and scary that situation was.

For us, it is extremely harrowing to take her on an airplane where nuts are being served by the airline. Yes, we carry multiple epi pens, and yes, we wipe down her seat and her surrounding area before she sits down. But just knowing that nuts are being served outright on the entire plane causes me to pretty much figuratively hold my breath the entire flight. To put it into perspective, for us, it is the same as a loaded handgun being passed around. It **shouldn't** go off, and Our daughter has been told not to touch it, and we keep it away from her - but I'm pretty sure no parent would be accepting of a loaded gun readily available on a plane. Then imagine, in that scenario, that no medical help is readily available. Yes the flight attendants are CPR trained, but 911 doesn't exist in the sky. The time it would take to get medical help to Our daughter far supersedes the amount of time it would take for her throat to close. For us, a handful of peanuts or tree nuts is literally a loaded gun. Being that there are SO many alternative food and snack options, as part of my input, I am asking that within the updated regulations being passed, that airlines, as well as any enclosed method of transportation not be allowed to distribute nuts or products containing nuts as an option for food. I know we can't control what people bring on a plane, or any other transportation mode, in their own bags, but we can reduce the amount of allergen in the space overall. I am also asking that across every type of travel, there be consistent staff training and education on the signs, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis.

Thank you,

Nicole Cox
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Canada