

To whom it may concern,

I understand consultations are underway regarding accommodation of food allergies on all modes of transportation.

As such, I write to share with you my experiences.

My son is anaphylactic to all tree nuts; my daughter anaphylactic to peanuts.

The only airline that has been accommodating, where they announce a ban on all nuts/peanuts when we travel is WestJet. Air Canada deems us rude, and only establishes a buffer zone, which you know to be useless.

I travel weekly on VIA rail for work, and indeed it certainly doesn't accommodate serious food allergies, and I always wonder how my kids, especially my son, will fare on train travel in the future.

On an international KLM flight, my son has an anaphylactic reaction, and required an EpiPen. Given that he had only eaten nut-free foods from home, we could only assume he somehow ingested cashew (served in business class on KLM) on the flight by way of touch, and then hand to mouth. I believe nuts in particular, and peanuts, leave behind residue/powder on all objects, and thus are the most difficult to eradicate on modes of transportation (vis a vis eggs and dairy).

Given the ubiquity of nuts and peanuts, the growing number of people suffering an allergy to these foods, and the risk of death association with ingestion of such allergens, I would ask at the very least that you please consider an **all out ban** on nuts and peanut products on Canadian modes of transportation, and any modes leaving a Canadian port. It's just a snack after all that can be replaced with another salty snack. Further, given the close encounters, and "trapped" spaces on trains, planes, boats and buses, I would ask that where possible, staff on moving vehicles should be trained in managing anaphylaxis.

Thanks in advance for your attention.

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