

Thank you for the request

I am a parent of a teen with risk of anaphylaxis due to ingestion, possibly inhalation, and topical contamination and exposure to peanuts.

Over the years we have learned to deal with it but it has. It been easy including being asked to leave the airplane because we had endangered' the flight (my son's peanut allergy). This was a result of ignorance by uninformed staff on the risks of severe allergies. The air carrier is no longer in business obviously it was struggling to provide access to all.

My thoughts in addition to the paper which discusses buffer zone etc. :

Accessibility due to allergies:

- training for all staff including fact base sensitivity training, recognition of diverse signs, first aid for anaphylactic shock
- access to life saving medication (epinephrine)
- trained personnel on how to use epinephrine devices
- availability of a device (child and adult dosages)

It seems that people with allergies are at this point blamed for being allergic I. I say this because unlike a physical disability which makes agencies responsible for providing accessibility people with food allergies are asked to wipe their own seats, administer their epinephrine

People with anaphylaxis due to allergies know that avoidance of allergen means safety. They or their caregivers are constantly vigilant but if staff are not trained, aware or know how to administer an epinephrine device due to lack of education, training and awareness, the result is systemic barrier building and lack of access to transportation for people with allergy based disabilities.

Yes a person allergic to peanuts can wipe down the buffet zone. What about the bathroom- should they wipe it down every time they use it because a peanut consuming passenger has used it? Is it not better to ask passengers to not travel with peanuts or tree nuts? As a mother I am constantly advocating for awareness and snacks that are peanut free with clear and consistent labelling practices on packages about 'contains and may contain labelling' (this is a separate topic/ battle).

As you have recognized 'demand for travel has increased, and so has severe allergies. Standards and policies that prevent passengers with medical disabilities from accidental ingestion, inhalation, and topical contamination of the allergen(s) is important if Canada is going to ensure accessibility is extended to this growing population.

Knowledgeable staff in and out of the transport method need to be consistently trained. People with the correct skill sets respond to the needs of the organization's clients.

With the goal of 'safety' in all modes of transport 'air, rail, ferry, bus ... entities whose operations are integral to federal transport network network, the responsibility can be shared but not rest on the client with risk of anaphylaxis due to allergies.

How aware about allergies are the individuals writing the policies matters- ensure people with severe allergies or caregivers like myself who deal with it on a daily basis are consulted. There are many of us who are willing to support efforts for access to safe transport.

I apologize for the length and unedited feedback. I am available for clarification if needed.

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