

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for taking the time to listen to the many of us who suffer with anaphylactic food allergies and need/deserve to feel safe when we travel. My son has life threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts and we are a family that likes to travel. Our main form of transportation when we travel is airline so I will speak to that, although I feel that accommodations should be made for all people with severe allergies in all types of transportation.

When we fly, we only fly West Jet because it has been our experience that they have the most progressive allergy policy. We always wipe all the seats down and have never had a problem boarding early if we choose, but usually wait and board at the regular time. West Jet will make an announcement to the plane and talk with the people around you asking them to refrain from eating nut products and usually the flight attendants will offer to provide a replacement snack for free if a passenger has brought a nut snack onboard. We have had mainly positive experiences with West Jet and appreciate the additional efforts made to help allergic passengers. So based on our travel experiences with West Jet and some time thinking about what allergy policies would be effective, here are my suggestions:

- airlines should have epipens on board as part of their first aid kits (yes, allergic passengers will always have several with them, but that is just an added security measure)
- all staff should be trained to know the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and know how to properly use an epipen
- no nut products should be served onboard
- allergic passengers should receive the same respect as all other passengers
- multiple announcements should be made regarding a passenger with life threatening allergies on board and for passengers to refrain from opening specific allergens (announcement in the boarding lounge, onboard and by the flight attendants to the passengers nearby)
- offering to replace nut snacks for free with another snack item if a passenger is complaining about their nut snack they brought on board
- creating an allergy zone for people with allergies...always sit in the same rows and a buffer zone
- an email from the airline to all passengers stating that there could be possible food restrictions in support of an anaphylactic passenger

Thanks again.
Sincerely,

Ann Meloche