

Hello,

As a mother of three young boys with a variety of life-threatening food allergies (including peanuts, tree nuts, sesame, dairy, fish, eggs, bananas and citrus), nothing is scarier than travel. This includes everything from the mode of transportation, ensuring access to safe food, cleanliness in hotels/cooking facilities, etc. The smallest contact with any of these allergens can result with a reaction. I recognize the bulk of the prevention/avoidance is up to us, but there are reasonable steps that should be taken to help protect those affected by food allergies.

Specifically, as it pertains to the mode of transportation, I would urge the following:

- ban the sale and consumption of snacks containing any type of nut - while people can live without peanuts/cashews, etc for the duration of a lengthy flight/bus ride - others could literally die as a result of unsafe conditions. This is especially critical in air travel when access to quick medical care is significantly limited.
- train **all staff** (not just those who handle food) to understand the significant risks of cross-contamination and how to recognize and treat a severe allergic reaction.
- ensure access to stock epinephrine at all times, in auto-injector format so anyone can administer it.
- allow those with food allergies to clean their seating area in advance of general boarding
- ensure all staff are aware of who has food allergies.

Thanks,
Anne