

As a parent of a child with life-threatening food and pet allergies, I am glad to see that there is finally some discussion on this. A buffer is a great idea if it's achievable. But the first place would be to start by ensuring that the free snacks provided by airlines do not contain the top allergens. We frequently fly and see that this is not the case. I would welcome a buffer but I can foresee airlines putting an 'allergy tax' on those seats because they have to set them aside. And/or passengers declaring they have an allergy when they don't have a life threatening one just so they can get the proximity of the seats. We've been on planes where there have been as many as 6 pets in the cabin. After mentioning that my child is asthmatic, the answer is that those passengers and those pets are sat in the rear of the plane. Well where is the washroom? In the rear of the plane. I'm a pet lover but those pets shouldn't be in the cabin unless they are service animals. Non-allergy passengers will complain that their needs aren't being accommodated properly. We've heard it all the time. But they don't have to worry that their child or even themselves will die because of contact with those allergens.

The only way I even heard about these consultations was because I subscribe to the newsletters from Food Allergy Canada. There are so many stakeholders that you might be missing. I really hope that you have shared the information about this consultation with Anaphylaxis Canada and with the allergists in the medical community, along with getting the word out to the general public via other mediums. This is a big deal to properly accommodate everyone and make it an inclusive mode of travel for all.

Thank you.

Tina Bouchard

Winnipeg, MB