

No modes of transportation that offer food should offer peanuts or nut products. People with anaphylactic reactions to these products can die if they come into contact with these; staff need to be educated about this fact.

I have travelled on a Canadian airline that did not have consistent procedures for how to deal with passengers with anaphylaxis. They placed the burden solely on the passenger by asking, "Do you have an EpiPen?" (of course we do; if we have anaphylaxis, we go NOWHERE without an EpiPen). They asked only passengers around the allergic passenger to not consume peanuts, without understanding that if a passenger 10 rows away consumes peanuts, then uses the washroom, my child is at risk if she opens the same bathroom door that has previously been opened by someone who just touched and consumed peanuts. There should be NO PEANUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND on airplanes, which are completely isolated environments where we have nowhere to turn to if an anaphylactic reaction occurs; without emergency medical attention within 15-20 minutes, the allergic patient can DIE. Even if an airplane does not offer peanuts or nuts on *only the trip on which the allergic patient travels*, there is still a risk that on the previous flight, the previous passenger sitting in the allergic patient's seat *did* consume peanuts and subsequently touched the seat arms, seat belt and the table. Once the allergic patient comes into contact with these surfaces, (s)he is at risk of having a reaction.

Is it more important for the peanut fanatic to get his peanuts, or for the anaphylactic patient to still be alive at the end of the flight?

Vicky Applebaum
Richmond Hill, ON