

Risk Assessment

Coach Trip with Cub Scouts – Severe (Airborne) Nut Allergy

1. Activity Details

- **Activity:** Coach travel with Cub Scouts to Whipsnade Zoo
- **Duration:** Approx. 2 hours
- **Passengers:** 50 to 80-seat coach, including one passenger with a severe (airborne) nut allergy

2. Persons at Risk

- **Primary Person at Risk:** Individual with severe nut allergy (airborne sensitivity)
- **Other Passengers:** Cub scouts, leaders, and any additional adults

3. Hazard Identification and Risks

Hazard: Presence of nuts or nut-based products on the coach, leading to potential allergic reaction through ingestion or airborne exposure.

- **Potential Harm:** Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis), which can be life-threatening and require immediate medical attention.

4. Existing Control Measures (Planned Mitigation)

1. Pre-Trip Communication

- All parents, guardians, and participants are **informed in advance** that **no nuts or nut-based products** are allowed on the trip.
- Written reminders and verbal instructions given prior to departure (e.g., via email or notice).

2. Boarding and Seating Arrangements

- The **at-risk passenger boards last** to minimize exposure to the environment.
- The **at-risk passenger is seated with their known group** (friends/adults who understand the allergy) in the **front section of seats**
- The **at-risk passenger will disembark first**, reducing contact with others in close quarters.

3. Air Conditioning / Ventilation

- Ensure that any **air conditioning system is set to fresh air intake** and **not recirculating** internal air. This helps **dilute any potential airborne allergens**.

4. Food Checks

- **All young people are checked on boarding** to ensure they do **not have any nuts or nut-based products**.
- Each young person may carry **only a small, clearly separated snack bag** (labelled/checked for nut-free contents).
- No other food is to be **opened or consumed on the coach** unless it has been verified as nut-free by leaders.

5. Awareness and Supervision

- Leaders and adult volunteers are informed about the allergy, the location of emergency medication (e.g., EpiPen) if applicable, and **emergency procedures**.
- All passengers (including Cub Scouts) receive a clear briefing on **the importance of not bringing or consuming nuts** during the journey.

5. Additional/Supporting Measures

• Emergency Plan

- Ensure **first aiders** or leaders are trained to recognize signs of anaphylaxis.
- Check the at-risk passenger has any required **medication (e.g., EpiPen)** readily available.
- Know the **emergency contact details** and the route's **nearest hospital** or medical facility.

• Personal Protective Measures

- Encourage the at-risk individual to bring **personal protective items** (e.g., antihistamines, personal wipes, etc.) as advised by a medical professional.

• Ongoing Monitoring

- Leaders should **periodically monitor** the passenger with the allergy during the trip for any signs of distress.
- If any breach of the no-nut policy is discovered, **immediate remedial action** must be taken (e.g., safely removing any offending item and ventilating the area).

6. Risk Evaluation

Hazard	Likelihood (After Controls)	Severity	Risk Level (Likelihood × Severity)	Notes
Exposure to nuts (airborne or contact) leading to allergic reaction	Low (with robust controls)	High (potential anaphylaxis)	Medium	Strict no-nut policy, seating arrangement, and ventilation reduce the likelihood significantly.

Overall Residual Risk: Medium

- With the **planned control measures**, the likelihood of exposure is significantly reduced, but the **severity** remains high if exposure does occur.

7. Responsibilities

- **Trip Leader / Scout Leader:**
 - Communicate allergy restrictions clearly, supervise checks, oversee seating arrangements, maintain awareness.
- **Adult Volunteers:**
 - Support no-nut policy enforcement, assist with checks, monitor passenger well-being.
- **Driver / Coach Company:**
 - Ensure air conditioning settings are adjusted to fresh intake rather than recirculation.
- **Parents/Guardians:**
 - Adhere to no-nut instructions when preparing snacks.
- **At-Risk Passenger:**
 - Carry any necessary medication, communicate any concerns to leaders promptly.

8. Review and Monitoring

- **Before Departure:**
 - Confirm final checks on snack bags and verify no nut-based products are present.
 - Check at-risk passenger's medication is on hand.
- **During Journey:**
 - Monitor adherence to no-eating policy (except for pre-approved snacks).

- Vigilance in observing any signs of allergic reaction.
- **After Journey:**
 - Document any incidents or near-misses.
 - Review the effectiveness of these measures and make improvements for future trips as needed.

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Summary: By implementing strict no-nut policies, ensuring clear seating arrangements, using fresh-air ventilation, and carefully supervising all passengers, the risk of the at-risk passenger experiencing an allergic reaction is significantly minimized. Constant vigilance, clear communication, and readiness to respond to any emergency are critical to maintaining the safety of all participants.