

# CAREGIVER VIEWS ON VIRTUAL MANAGEMENT OF FOOD ALLERGY

## A MIXED METHODS STUDY

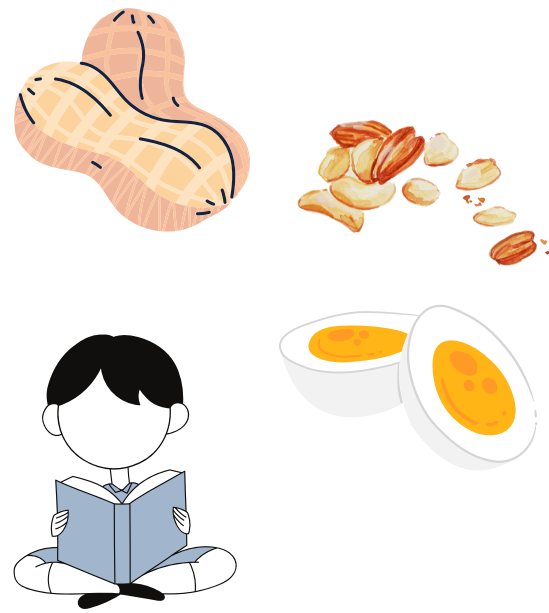
Chan ES, Jeimy S, Hanna M, Cook VE, Mack DP, Abrams EM, Soller L, Wong T, Protudjer JL. Caregiver views on virtual management of food allergy: a mixed methods study. *Pediatr Allergy Immunol.* 2021. doi:10.1111/pai.13539. PMID 33978254



**WE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT CANADIAN CAREGIVERS THOUGHT ABOUT THE SWITCH TO VIRTUAL HEALTHCARE DELIVERY AT THE START OF THE PANDEMIC**

### CAREGIVER CHARACTERISTICS

- 66 caregivers
- About half had graduate/professional degrees
- Half had children aged 5 years or younger
- Slightly more boys than girls (59% vs. 41%)
- Three most common allergies: peanut, tree nut, egg



### SATISFACTION WITH VIRTUAL CARE

Based on quantitative data:

- Caregivers reported similar levels of satisfaction between virtual, and virtual + in-person care, across different types of allergy care: initial visits, follow-up, oral food challenges and oral immunotherapy



### VIRTUAL CARE BENEFICIAL, BUT ISOLATING

Based on qualitative data:

- Parents able to access care without time and financial losses
- The social isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic further amplified isolation felt due to food allergy



**Our study provides the necessary first steps to inform sustainable virtual allergy care. We propose that a hybrid model will address some social isolation concerns.**