An estimated 32 million Americans have some form of food allergies. With food allergies, normally straightforward processes such as shopping in a grocery store or ordering food at a restaurant take on heightened risks and necessitate increased precaution. Growing up with a life-threatening peanut allergy, I had to read the label of any and all food I ate, make sure that those around me were aware of my allergy, and generally maintain vigilance as to what I was eating and how it was prepared.

I also noticed that there were vast disparities in how different stores and restaurants responded to food allergies. Some took my allergy seriously and offered various allergen free food options, while others seemed to disregard how different stores and restaurants treated food allergies. Some took my allergy in mind, and there is often very little guidance on how to live and eat with these allergies in mind.

I had to read the label of any and all food I ate, make sure that those around me were aware of my allergy, and generally maintain vigilance as to what I was eating and how it was prepared. I also noticed that there were vast disparities in how different stores and restaurants responded to food allergies. Some took my allergy seriously and offered various allergen free food options, while others seemed to disregard my allergy as unimportant. There are 32 million other people for whom this is also a daily process, and there is often very little guidance on how to live and eat with these allergies in mind. In this way, Allerview is designed to help ease some of the burden from those who suffer from food allergies.

Allerview is an app that users can download onto their mobile devices as well as a website they can access through their browser. It provides a platform on which users can write reviews about various stores and restaurants, specifically pertaining to how they cater to food allergies. In addition to displaying reviews written directly on the Allerview platform, it also searches other review platforms, including Yelp, TripAdvisor, and Google Reviews, among others, for reviews that directly mention food allergies. These reviews are also displayed on Allerview with a link leading back to the review on its original site. This feature functions to broaden the data to which Allerview users have access. Allerview allows users to search for specific stores and restaurants, as well as according to more general categories. It sorts reviews by relevancy based on the user’s search and their specific allergy needs. In addition, it displays user information alongside the review including the specific allergy of the reviewer, providing users with more information regarding the conclusions they draw from the review.

The ultimate goal of Allerview is to make it easier for people with food allergies to access information regarding the ways in which certain stores and restaurants treat food allergies. As a result, it aims to limit the uncertainty involved in the already stressful task of finding foods that are food allergy friendly. It is important to note that Allerview does not seek to entirely replace an individual’s discretion as to how their food allergy is being accommodated. Allerview provides a note at the top of each page that reminds users to always use their best judgment when dining with their food allergies in mind. This reminds users their common sense is always more important than the reviews on the platform, and that this is solely a tool to guide their decision-making. Users would utilize Allerview to make informed, sensible decisions regarding how to live and eat with a food allergy in mind.

Allerview seeks to allow humans and technology to work in tandem to allow people with food allergies to deal with their allergies in a more informed manner. This interaction affects the lives of those with food allergies by allowing them to live in a connected and educated way, easing the burden and stresses that come with these food allergies. These connections encourage and promote eudaimonia among Allerview’s users.