

LATEX ALLERGIES

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control, has issued the following warning:

WORKERS EXPOSED TO LATEX GLOVES AND OTHER PRODUCTS CONTAINING NATURAL RUBBER LATEX MAY DEVELOP ALLERGIC REACTIONS SUCH AS SKIN RASHES; HIVES; NASAL, EYE, OR SINUS SYMPTOMS; ASTHMA; AND (RARELY) SHOCK

Reports of allergic reactions to latex products have recently increased, especially among health care workers.

NIOSH has developed the following recommendations to help prevent latex allergies.

- Employers
 - Provide non-latex gloves for employees.
 - If barrier protection is needed, i.e. handling infectious materials - provide reduced protein, powder-free gloves.
 - Provide education programs for workers about latex allergies.
 - Periodically screen high risk employees for symptoms.
- Employees
 - Use non-latex gloves for noninfectious tasks.
 - If needed for barrier protection from infectious materials, use reduced protein, powder-free gloves
 - Wash hands after latex glove use.
 - Good Housekeeping - Remove latex-containing dust from the workplace.
 - Familiarize with procedures for preventing latex allergies.
 - Recognize symptoms of latex allergy

Additional information is available at 1-800-35-NIOSH, 1-800-356-4674, or

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/98-113/default.html>

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