




A Healthcare Workers' Guide to LATEX SAFETY



According to a latex allergy alert published by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the incidence of latex sensitization among healthcare workers is estimated to be between **8 and 12 percent**. If you choose latex gloves, use powder-free gloves with reduced protein content.¹

There are **THREE TYPES** of adverse reactions to natural rubber latex products, as shown in the chart below:

TYPE OF REACTION	MEDICAL NAME	CAUSES	SYMPTOMS
 Skin Irritation	Irritant Reaction (non-allergic)	Repeated washing, insufficient rinsing, antiseptic agents, glove powder	Dermatitis, including redness, dry, or cracked skin, itchiness or hard, red bumps
 Type IV Reaction	Delayed Hypersensitivity	Repeated exposure to processing chemicals used in latex manufacturing	Skin inflammation, puffiness, redness and itchiness usually occurring several hours after exposure and sometimes persisting for several days
 Type I Reaction	Immediate Hypersensitivity	Repeated exposure to naturally occurring water-soluble proteins in latex products	Inflamed itchy redness occurring within minutes of exposure. Watery eyes, runny nose and asthma-like symptoms. More severe reactions may include skin rashes, facial swelling, breathlessness, and, in rare cases, anaphylactic shock

¹ National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Preventing Allergic Reactions to Natural Rubber Latex in the Workplace, June 1987, PHS No. 87-133.

Sponsored by the makers of
Biogel® The World's Finest Surgical Gloves™

For additional information:
www.regentmedical.com 1-800-843-8497



©2007 REGENT MEDICAL