



Latex Policy

Scope

This policy applies to all members of the campus community in regards to the use of latex-containing products (balloons, decorations, gloves, etc.).

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is the prevention of allergic reactions to natural rubber latex at Elizabethtown College. Latex allergy can result in potentially serious health problems for workers and students who are often unaware of the risk of latex exposure. Such health problems can be minimized or prevented by following the recommendations in this Policy.

A wide variety of products contain latex: medical supplies, personal protective equipment, and numerous household objects. Most persons who encounter latex products only through their general use in society have no health problems from the use of these products. Individuals who already have latex allergy should be aware of latex-containing products that may trigger an allergic reaction.

Latex allergy can be prevented or minimized only if employers adopt policies to protect workers from undue latex exposures. NIOSH recommends that employers take steps to protect workers from latex exposure and allergy in the workplace. Therefore, the College has implemented this policy.

Process

1. Any student who has a latex allergy should inform the Director of Student Wellness of this allergy.
2. Any employee who has a latex allergy should inform his/her direct supervisor and Human Resources of this allergy.
3. Since there are numerous visitors on campus every day whose allergies are unknown, in addition to students and employees who may have latex allergies, the College's policy is to discourage the use of any latex-containing products, including balloons, decorations, gloves, etc.
4. If latex products are to be used indoors, signs must be posted in the area(s) of use to alert students, staff, faculty, and visitors of the potential allergen exposure.
5. Individuals must adhere to this policy and are encouraged to use of non-latex containing items for the safety and well-being of all members of the campus community.

Responsibilities

1. Employees / Students
 - a. Inform the Director of Student Wellness (students) or employee's direct supervisor and Human Resources (employees) if you have a latex allergy
 - b. Adhere to the policy

Evaluation

The Safety Committee shall be responsible for evaluating this policy annually.

Document History

Created: 10/2008

Revised: 10/2009, 11/2010, 10/2011, 10/2012