

WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES:
CARE PLANS

FFAF
(REGULATION)

**LATEX ALLERGY
GUIDELINES**

A person who is allergic to latex may experience mild symptoms or may experience a life-threatening reaction. To create a safer environment for students with latex allergies, schools should reduce or eliminate latex on campus. In addition, staff members must be prepared to react to accidental exposure for the individual who is sensitive.

Background

Latex allergy is present in 1% to 6% of the general population. Symptoms can range from mild (including itching and redness) to severe (including difficulty breathing, anaphylaxis). Latex and the powder that is often used with it contain a protein that can be dangerous to sensitive individuals if they touch or inhale it. Latex is often found in balloons, gloves, medical supplies, and other common items. Schools should limit the exposure to latex by purchasing items that are latex-free. However, it is impossible to create a latex-free environment. Schools should work to create a latex-safe environment.

Limited Exposure

Nurses will collaborate with students, parents, teachers and other staff members to decrease the possibility of exposure to latex and treat the signs and symptoms of allergic reaction to accidental exposure.

**Individual Health
Plans**

The Campus Health Coordinator (RN) should identify students who have latex allergies at the beginning of the school year, based on information provided by parents during enrollment. The Campus Health Coordinator should update this list at least once per semester.

The Campus Health Coordinator should work with the student, parent, nurse, and appropriate staff members to develop an Individual Health Plan (IHP) for each student with latex allergies. This may include the student's Section 504 Committee or ARD Committee, as appropriate. An IHP may include notices or posters in rooms, notification letters to parents of classmates, class discussion, or other interventions that will promote education and safety.

**CTE and Science
Courses**

Career and Technical Education instructors will purchase latex-free materials for all CTE courses. Latex-free materials should be purchased for science labs and demonstrations.

Ordering Supplies

Nurses and staff who are responsible for ordering supplies will order latex-free supplies when possible, including gloves, bandages, rubber bands, therapy bands, and equipment.

Campuses are encouraged to prohibit balloons on campus. If balloons are allowed on campus, they must be mylar or plastic. Balloon bouquets and balloon gifts, if allowed, will be kept in an area in the front office that is not in the pathway to the clinic.

Extracurricular sponsors and staff members who plan events should request a written latex-free verification when ordering decorations for school-sponsored events.

Epi Pens

Team members should be trained on the use of epinephrine and the signs and symptoms that indicate epinephrine is needed.

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The Campus Health Coordinator will ensure that there is at least one unassigned adult epinephrine auto-injector pack available in a secure, easily accessible place. A school may also choose to stock epinephrine auto-injectors for children under 65 pounds. Each Campus Health Coordinator will ensure that all trained personnel know the location of the unassigned epinephrine.

Annual Notice

The Health Services Coordinator will send annual notification of this policy to staff members, booster clubs, and PTA.

References

<https://allergyasthmanetwork.org/allergies/latex-allergy/>

Beierwaltes, P., & Schoessler, A., Latex Safe at School: A Student-Centered Approach, 2017.