


RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

	POLICY NUMBER: 10.38 DOC	EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/31/03	PAGE 1 OF 4
	REPEALS: N/A	DIRECTOR: Please use BLUE ink. <div style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em; text-align: center;">Ashbel T. Wall II</div>	
SECTION: SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES		SUBJECT: RISKS OF LATEX EXPOSURE	
AUTHORITY: Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) § 42-56-10 (22), Powers of the director			
REFERENCES: RIGL § 23-73, Latex Gloves Safety Act; RIDOC policies 10.11 DOC, Departmental Management/Labor Safety Program; 18.18 DOC, Continuing Education for Qualified Health Services Personnel; 18.25 DOC, Health Services Staff Participation in New Employee Orientation			
INMATE / PUBLIC ACCESS?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	
AVAILABLE IN SPANISH?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	

I. PURPOSE:

- A. To ban the use of disposable sterile and non-sterile natural rubber latex gloves in the Rhode Island Department of Corrections' (RIDOC's) Food Services Unit.
- B. To warn Rhode Island Department of Corrections employees and the general public of the potential exposure to latex and subsequent risk of latex allergies.

II. POLICY:

The Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) directs Food Services employees that the use of latex gloves is prohibited. In addition, the RIDOC advises its employees and the general public of possible exposure to latex and the potential effects of such exposure.

III. PROCEDURES:

- A. Per RIGL § 23-73-1, the Legislature finds that latex allergies are increasingly becoming a problem for people who are exposed to disposable sterile and non-sterile latex gloves, such as health care workers, patients, food service workers, manufacturers, hair dressers, child care workers, and children.
- B. Latex gloves and/or other latex products may be used by RIDOC staff with the exception of Food Services personnel, who are prohibited from using latex products.
- C. Categories of latex allergies are:
 - 1. irritant dermatitis;
 - 2. allergic contact dermatitis (delayed hypersensitivity); and
 - 3. immediate hypersensitivity latex allergy.
- D. Possible symptoms of allergic reactions to latex are:
 - 1. skin rashes;
 - 2. hives;
 - 3. itching;
 - 4. swollen skin;
 - 5. swollen lips and tongue;
 - 6. shortness of breath;
 - 7. dizziness;
 - 8. fainting;
 - 9. eye or sinus symptoms;
 - 10. asthma and difficulty breathing;

11. coughing spells;
 12. wheezing; and/or
 13. shock.
- E. If anyone experiences any of the aforementioned symptoms, s/he is advised to contact his/her health care provider.
1. If said symptoms are a result of occupational exposure and more than first aid treatment is required, RIDOC Building Administrators or their designees must make entries in the OSHA 300 log, which is available on the Local Area Network, consistent with policy 10.11 DOC, Departmental Management/Labor Safety Program, or a successive policy.
 2. If any employee who utilizes latex gloves experiences an allergic reaction(s), s/he may request non-latex alternative gloves (e.g., vinyl) from his/her supervisor.
- F. Warning Signs
1. Building Administrators ensure signs warning RIDOC staff, inmates, and the general public of the possible exposure to latex products are posted in conspicuous areas throughout RIDOC-owned buildings. This is most important in visiting areas where the public is subject to pat search and/or searches of personal items.
 - a. See Attachment 1 for sample warning sign in English, and Attachments 2 and 3 for Spanish and French versions, respectively.
 - b. Said signs must contain letters that are at least three-eighths (3/8) of an inch in height.
 2. In addition to the signs posted by Building Administrators or designees, Health Care Services staff utilizing latex gloves shall post warning signs notifying inmates and employees of the possible exposure to latex.
- G. Building Administrators shall attempt to minimize exposure to latex while maintaining safety with bloodborne pathogens. Recommended methods of minimization include substitution and/or elimination of latex products with non-latex items where appropriate.

- H. Pursuant to RIGL § 23-73-3, staff from the Public Health Education Unit provide education and counseling regarding latex allergies/sensitivities to Health Care Services staff.
- I. Direct care workers' participation on RIDOC's Departmental Safety Committee is consistent with RIGL § 23-73-3 and policy # 10.11 DOC, or a successive policy.
- J. Penalties
 - 1. Penalties for violation of RIGL § 23-73 include:
 - a. \$500 fine per violation;
 - b. suspension/revocation of Department of Health (DOH) licenses;
 - c. other as determined by the DOH Director.

WARNING

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Attachment 1
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Latex gloves are used in this facility.

Repeated contact with latex may cause a latex allergy or may worsen a present latex allergy.

Reactions to latex may include:

- skin rashes
- hives
- asthma
- nasal, eye, or sinus symptoms
- allergic shock (anaphylactic shock)

If you or your family are having these symptoms, call your health care provider (your doctor, nurse, or dentist) immediately.

PURSUANT TO R.I. GEN. LAWS §23-73-2(d)

Source: www.healthri.org website

Corrected by: RIDOC Policy Unit

See policy item III.F.1.b. for letter size requirements.

Aviso

Se usan los guantes de látex en esta facilidad.

El contacto repetido con látex puede causar una alergia de látex o puede empeorar una alergia de látex presente.

La reacción al látex puede incluir:

piel brotada
colmena
asma
síntomas nasales, ojos o síntomas del sinus
y
postración nerviosa (anaphylactic shock).

Si usted o sus familias están teniendo estos síntomas, llame su proveedor de cuidado de salud (su doctor, enfermera o dentista) inmediatamente.

ATTENTION

Les gants en latex sont utilisés ici.

Le contact fréquent avec la matière latex peut causer une réaction allergique ou peut empirer une allergie déjà en cause.

Les réactions à la matière latex peuvent inclure:

des enflures,

de l'asthma,

des démangeaisons du nez, des yeux, ou

des symptômes de sinusite et

un choc allergique (choc anaphylactique).

Si vous ou votre famille avez ces symptômes, appelez votre centre de santé (votre docteur, infirmière, ou dentiste) immédiatement.