

MORRISVILLE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

APPROVED: APRIL 27, 2016

REVISED:

209.2. LATEX SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Steps to create a latex safe school environment:

1. Identify students and staff with sensitivities or allergic reactions.
2. School Nurse to discuss allergy with parents/staff members and plan for school safety needs (staff will be made aware of a latex sensitive student/staff member and what plan of care to follow).
3. Student/staff should wear identification bracelet.
4. Parents/staff member will provide emergency medication at school if indicated.
5. Latex balloons will not be allowed in the school buildings.
6. Latex free gloves must be worn by students/staff with a latex sensitivity/allergy and by students and staff.
7. Frequently clean school areas contaminated with latex dust (upholstery, carpets, ventilation ducts).
8. Frequently change the ventilation filters and vacuum bags used in latex-contaminated areas.
9. Potential latex exposures in the classroom include erasers, art supplies, rubber bands, glue, stickers. If indicated in a student's plan of care, latex free school supplies should be used and supplied by the student's parent/guardian.
10. Potential latex exposure in cafeteria includes food prepared by person wearing latex gloves or the use of rubber utensils. Latex free gloves are to be worn by all food service personnel and non-rubber utensils should be used.
11. Potential latex exposures on the playground/gym include all types of balls, gym floors, gym mats, and rubber tires. Provide latex free equipment if indicated in the student's plan of care. If latex free equipment is not available, place a barrier between the student and the latex.
12. Potential latex exposure in health rooms include band-aids, elastic bandages, first aid supplies, rubber stoppers in syringes, blood pressure cuffs, stethoscope tubing. Provide latex free first aid supplies if indicated in the student's plan of care.

Types of adverse reactions a student/staff may experience upon coming in contact with a product that contains latex:

1. Irritant contact dermatitis- the development of dry, itchy, irritated areas on the skin, usually the hands. This reaction is caused by skin irritation from using gloves and possibly by exposure to other workplace products and chemicals. This is not considered an allergic reaction. Plan of care: Latex free gloves should be worn to reduce the potential for irritation and are recommended for individuals prone to irritant reactions.

209.2-AR-0 LATEX SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT - Pg. 2

2. Allergic contact dermatitis (delayed hypersensitivity) – an allergic reaction caused by the chemical used during processing of latex. Symptoms are itching, redness, vesicles, edema, and skin thickening. Skin manifestations may extend beyond the area of contact. The rash usually begins 24-48 hours after contact. Plan of care: Call parents and monitor at school. Student/staff member to wear only non-latex powder free gloves.
3. Latex allergy- reactions usually occur within minutes to hours after exposure. Signs and symptoms include itching, hives and skin redness. More severe reactions may involve respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, sneezing, itchy eyes, scratchy throat, difficulty breathing, coughing spells, and wheezing, tachycardia, hypotension and cardiac arrest. Plan of care: Authorized personnel to administer emergency medication (if indicated in student's/staff member's plan of care), call 911 to transport to an Emergency Medical Facility, Initiate CPR if cardiac or airway problems.