

## ROSEMAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES LA TEX ALLERGY POLICY

Purpose: Provide an understanding of the potential risks associated with the exposure to latex in the environment for students, employees and visitors. A totally latex-free environment is not possible in either clinical or academic settings.

What is Latex? Latex refers to natural rubber latex and includes products made from dry natural rubber. Natural rubber latex is the product manufactured from a milky fluid derived mainly from a rubber tree.

The most common source of a latex allergen is latex gloves. Other products that contain latex include, but are not limited to:

Blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, disposable gloves, oral and nasal airways, endotracheal tubes, tourniquets, intravenous tubing, syringes, electrode pads, surgical masks, goggles, respirators, anesthesia masks, catheters, wound drains, injection ports, tops of multidose vials, dental dams, rubber aprons, rubber bands, rubber erasers, and balloons.

Individuals can be exposed to latex residue, of others working in an area, or to latex present in the equipment, models and mannequins that are used in various practice laboratories.

Latex allergy should be suspected in anyone who develops certain symptoms after latex exposure, including nasal, eye, or sinus irritation; hives; difficulty breathing, shortness of breath; coughing; wheezing; or unexplained shock. Students, employees, and visitors who experience these symptoms should immediately consult their health care provider, since further exposure could result in a serious allergic reaction. Medical care required as a result of a latex allergen is at the expense of the affected student, employee, or visitor. The employees, students, and visitors affected with symptoms or reactions to the latex allergen must bring clearance from their healthcare provider in order to return to the laboratory and/ or clinical environment.

The responsibility of understanding the risks associated with latex exposure, even when reasonable precautions have been made rests with the employee, student, or visitor who has a latex sensitivity. These individuals may consider wearing a medi-alert bracelet and/ or should consider carrying an epinephrine injection device (such as EpiPen®). They should follow the recommendations of their health care provider.

A latex allergy will not disqualify a prospective student from admission into any of Roseman's programs or prohibit a current student from continuing in a program. Please note, however that Roseman University cannot guarantee a latex-free academic or clinical environment in any of its facilities or associated clinical sites.

While Roseman University cannot guarantee a latex-free environment, it will:

- Encourage all units to work toward a latex-safe environment.
- Order latex-free products for all laboratories, when possible.

- Use only latex-free and powder-free gloves in all laboratories.
- Educate students and faculty with latex sensitivities to select latex-free gloves during clinical experiences.
- Discourage latex balloons on campus.
- Provide students, faculty, and staff with education on latex allergies through this written policy.

**Off-Campus Environments:** Roseman University is not responsible if a clinical partner does not provide a latex-free environment. As per the affiliation agreements with Roseman's clinical partners, RU is required to provide pertinent health information regarding individual students to the clinical partner agency. The presence of a latex allergy must be included in this documentation. The clinical agency may refuse to allow a student to receive training at the clinical facility based on this information. Roseman will make reasonable effort to place the student at a different site; however, placement cannot be guaranteed. When alternate clinical sites cannot be ascertained, RU will be unable to award a degree to a student who is unable to complete all required aspects of the curriculum, including the clinical experiential components.

RESPONSE: 911 WILL BE CALLED FOR ALL MEDICAL EMERGENCIES—