

Latex Allergy

What is Latex?

Latex is sap from a rubber tree that is included in rubber products.

Who is at risk for developing a Latex allergy? People with:

- Spina Bifida
- Genito-urinary birth defects
- Daily catheterization programs using latex catheters
- Daily bowel program using latex gloves
- Previous reaction to balloons, paper tape, rubber toys
- Repeated exposure to latex products

Anyone who is at risk of developing a Latex allergy should avoid rubber gloves, catheters, masks, and tourniquets. Notify all health care workers immediately upon arrival to the hospital or clinic that your child may be at risk.

What are the signs and symptoms of a Latex allergy?

- Skin rash
- Itching, hives, redness
- Difficult breathing, wheezing
- Eye tearing
- Chest pains or tightness
- Tight throat
- Sneezing or coughing
- Fainting or unconsciousness

What do you do when an allergic reaction happens?

- Remove the object causing the reaction.
- Rinse the area of skin exposed to latex with large amounts of water.
- Alert medical staff of the incident as soon as possible.
- Call 911 if child has difficulty breathing or chest pain/tightness.

When your child has had a known reaction to latex, all latex products need to be avoided (medical and non-medical). You should individually screen each product you use by reading the label to determine if it contains latex. Latex alternatives include vinyl gloves, silk tape, plastic toys, and plastic/silicone catheters.

If your child has an allergic reaction to Latex, consult your clinic nurse or doctor. Obtain a Medic Alert bracelet (order forms are in CHOC outpatient clinics and most drug stores). The bracelet should read "ALLERGIC TO LATEX".