



RECOMMENDED GLOVE SOLUTIONS

- Most major cities have chosen to offer both latex and nitrile gloves as a PPE option.
- Elimination of powdered gloves.
- Use of powder free latex gloves tested low in proteins.
- Use of gloves known to be low in chemical allergens and accelerants.
- Use of quick dry hand sanitizers only when exposure is prevalent.
- Use of glove liners, aloe and lanolin free hand creams which leach residual chemicals from gloves.
- Confirmation of suspected latex allergies with appropriate testing

TESTING AVAILABLE FOR THE CONSUMER

- SKIN PRICK
- ALASTAT - RAST ASSAY
- WESTERN BLOT

CATEGORICAL REACTION TYPES

IRRITANT CONTACT DERMATITIS

Symptoms can occur within minutes to hours

With the increase in use of anti bacterial soaps, stringent anti microbial hand wipes, and quick dry hand sanitizers whose primary ingredient is alcohol, has come a dramatic rise in irritant contact dermatitis, a condition that degrades the hands own skin integrity. Frequent hand washing removes the skins natural oils. When these oils are stripped from the outer layer, the skin becomes dry and irritated and the deeper layers of skin are now left exposed to harsh, damaging chemical irritants. In addition, use of aloe or lanolin lotions breaks down the latex glove leaching residual chemicals from the glove. Users should refrain from using emollient based hand creams during glove use periods

INITIAL

ITCHING AND BURNING

ACUTE

SWOLLEN RED SKIN

CHRONIC

DRY THICKENED SKIN, CRUSTING, CRACKS, SCABBING SORES, PUSTULES, PEELING

TYPE IV DELAYED HYPERSENSITIVITY (ALLERGIC CONTACT DERMATITIS)

Symptoms will occur within 6 to 48 hours

Along with reactions to the proteins inherent in latex, individuals may develop reactions to the chemicals required to produce the finished glove product. These reactions, Delayed Type IV Hypersensitivity, can occur in individuals who wear gloves for extended periods of time, are sensitive to certain chemicals used in the process, or who have sensitive skin.

INITIAL

ITCHING, BURNING, LEADING TO PAIN

ACUTE

RED SKIN, BLISTERS, ONLY MAY MOVE UP THE ARM

CHRONIC

SAME AS IRRITANT CONTACT DERMATITIS ONLY MORE PRONOUNCED

IMMEDIATE TYPE I HYPERSENSITIVITY

Symptoms can occur within seconds to minutes

A type I reaction can occur either by touching a product with the allergen (*e.g.*, gloves) or by inhaling the allergen (*e.g.*, powder to which natural rubber proteins from gloves have absorbed). When such a reaction begins in highly sensitive individuals, it can progress rapidly from swelling of the lips and airways to shortness of breath, and may progress to shock and death, sometimes within minutes.

INITIAL

ITCHING AND TINGLING

ACUTE

URTICARIA AND SWELLING, MAY INVOLVE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM, RUNNY NOSE, WHEEZING, ASTHMA OR SYSTEMIC INVOLVEMENT, HIVES, NAUSEA, DIARRHEA, RAPID HEART RATE, ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK

CHRONIC

SEVERE URTICARIA, MAY AFFECT ANY PART OF THE BODY

STATISTICS

GENERAL POPULATION < 3% ■ HEALTHCARE EMPLOYEES 6.9% to 7.8%