STANDING SAFETY PROTOCOL - LATEX

The school of Medicine recognizes that some individuals are, or may become, allergic to latex. As a result there is a standing safety policy on the use of latex and a protocol for individuals who are diagnosed with a latex allergy.

1.   **Standing precautions**:

   a.   No latex gloves will be purchased, acquired, brought in or held. All gloves will be nitrile composition.

   b.   Where surgical equipment (real or simulated) is used that may come in contact with skin, other than the hands, the school will establish from the manufacturer that the compound is 'latex free'. If this is not possible then it should be assumed to contain latex.

2.   Any staff member or student who is concerned that they may be allergic to latex should seek occupational health advice.

3.   When the school is advised by occupational health that an individual is allergic to latex then the following reasonable adjustment is to be employed:

   a.   **The school will**. Provide the individual with a supply of powder free, allergy-free nitrile gloves with a supply of barrier cream and anti-allergic hand wash.

   b.   **The individual should**:

      i.   Note that in a healthcare setting it will be very difficult to identify all latex-containing compounds but as a trainee health professional the medical student should take care of themselves if unsure of the latex content of any individual equipment.

      ii.   Use only the provided powder-free nitrile gloves in all teaching practicals, self-directed practice and clinical practice[1].

      iii.   Advise the technicians when their supply is running low so that a fresh order can be made.

      iv.   Take care to wear gloves when using any rubber like compound that is not certified as 'latex free'.

      v.   Use a silicone face mask when using resuscitation models.

      vi.   Wear a med alert bracelet or necklace in a clinical setting

---

[1] Note that these gloves are to be given to the individual personally and are not placed out in the labs as it is probable that these gloves would be used up by individuals who do not recognise the difference in glove type