

## **GROCERY WORKERS ALERT Latex Gloves Can Cause Dangerous Allergic Reactions**

**Some people who work with latex gloves may have serious allergic reactions. Some problems that latex gloves can cause are:**

- Red, itchy skin rash
- Hives
- Itchy, watery eyes
- Runny nose
- Sinus problems
- Breathing problems (asthma)
- Life-threatening reactions

**How can you get an allergic reaction from latex gloves?**

- If you wear or touch latex gloves
- If you touch or eat food that someone else has touched with latex gloves
- If you breathe latex particles that are in the air

**Who can get allergic problems from latex?**

- Workers who wear latex gloves a lot
- People who have allergies, hay fever, asthma or skin problems
- Customers who eat or touch food that was handled by someone wearing latex gloves

**How can we prevent latex allergy problems?**

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) says latex can cause serious allergic reactions. Employers and workers should follow these directions:

- Latex gloves or latex finger cots should not be used in any food-service area.
- Employers should provide workers with vinyl, polyvinyl chloride or other non-latex gloves to use on the job.
- Think of latex as a food contaminant.
- Remember that even when wearing gloves, it is important to wash your hands often to stop the spread of disease from workers to customers through any food handled.

It makes good business sense to protect workers and customers from allergic reactions that are easy to prevent.