

University of Windsor
Faculty of Nursing
Guidelines re Students with Latex Allergy and/or Sensitivity

In light of the understanding that latex sensitivity and allergic reactions are becoming increasingly common in the nursing profession, and that a latex allergy can develop without warning, the Faculty of Nursing has endeavoured to limit the presence of latex in the Nursing Clinical Learning Centre. The following was developed to address the issue of latex allergy/sensitivities that may be experienced by students in the Nursing Program.

1. In an attempt to mitigate the potential for adverse effects on their health, current and prospective students who have a known allergy or sensitivity to latex shall disclose this information: (a) on the Verification of Health Status form that is submitted annually to our clinical pre-clearance agency (i.e., Bayshore), and (b) to the Faculty of Nursing Clinical Coordinator.
2. A student who has, or who acquires, a latex sensitivity/allergy while enrolled in the Nursing Program shall meet with the Nursing Clinical Coordinator upon entry to the program, or after determination of the presence of the allergy/sensitivity. At this meeting, the Nursing Clinical Coordinator will review this policy with the student and will discuss: (a) the potential for latex exposure while in the Nursing Program, (b) the health risks associated with continued exposures, and (c) known latex-containing materials in the nursing environment.
3. A student with a latex sensitivity /allergy must notify their laboratory, simulation, and/or clinical instructors prior to/at the start of each course.
4. Students with latex sensitivity /allergy are responsible for bringing their allergy medications to laboratory, simulation, or clinical experience site or other location where there is a risk of exposure to latex-containing products.
5. The latex allergic/sensitive student undertakes to wear a Medic Alert bracelet at all times when on campus identifying that she/he has a latex allergy.
6. Students with latex sensitivity/allergy are advised that there is a reasonable possibility that notwithstanding the precautions that are taken by the Faculty of Nursing to limit the presence of latex in the Nursing Clinical Learning Centre that there will be some exposure to latex. Students who are enrolled in the Nursing Program are prepared to accept that risk.
7. Students with latex sensitivity/allergy are advised that repeated and continued exposure to latex over time could cause increased severity of allergic/sensitivity reactions. This could escalate to the point where the student can no longer safely participate in the Nursing Program.
8. The latex allergic/sensitive student confirms and acknowledges that manikins will not be removed from the labs/classrooms. Latex sensitive/allergic students shall use non-latex gloves and an appropriate mask, as required, to minimize the risk of exposure to the latex.
9. Any policy and/or practice concerning latex sensitivity/allergy in place at a clinical site shall be observed. Where a conflict exists between the Faculty of Nursing policy and that of the clinical site, the policy of the host institution shall take precedence. The University has no legal ability to require a clinical agency to take reasonable steps to accommodate a latex allergic/sensitive student.