LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE

School of Health, Kinesiology, Science and Mathematics
Nursing and Allied Health Department

LATEX ALLERGY POLICY

Name: ______________________________ **Date:** ______________
Last **First** **Middle**

Email: ______________________________ **Student ID:** ______________

Telephone: ____________________ **Age:** __________ **Sex:** ______________

Background:
Over the last ten years, latex allergy has become a serious healthcare problem. Experts have described it as a disabling occupational disease among healthcare workers (American Nurses Association, 1997).

The allergic reaction to latex is evoked by direct contact with products containing latex rubber or by inhaling powder from latex gloves. Responses may range in severity from a rash to asthma attacks to death from anaphylaxis (New York State Nurses Association, 1999).

The increased need to don gloves in both medical and non-medical settings has increased the prevalence of latex allergies. A 1997 alert published by the National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) indicated that about 1% to 6% of the general population and 8% to 12% of regularly exposed healthcare workers are sensitized to latex. These statistics indicate that an increasing number of entering nursing and healthcare students may already have a latex sensitivity. Beginning one's professional life with a latex allergy presents unique problems for students and faculty.

In light of this growing problem, the Nursing & Allied Health Department has developed the following form and information related to latex exposure.

Initial Steps:
All Nursing & Allied Health Department Health Evaluation Forms will have a category which indicates *Latex Allergy*. The healthcare provider completing the form must specifically respond to this item.

Follow-Up:
In those instances where a latex allergy has been indicated, the following actions should be initiated:

- Faculty/Student will be provided with literature on latex allergies.
- Faculty/Student will be counseled regarding acceleration of sensitivity with repeated exposures.
- Faculty/Student will be encouraged to wear a Medi-Alert bracelet as suggested by NIOSH.
- Faculty/Student acknowledgement of this policy will be kept on file in the Nursing & Allied Health office.

Agency Contact:
The student will be responsible for sharing information about the latex allergy with the respective clinical agency.

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I have read and understand the policy concerning latex allergy.

☐ I do not have any allergy to latex, or

☐ I do have a latex allergy. I am fully aware of the dangers arising out of exposure to latex and I agree to exercise appropriate caution. I hereby release Long Beach City College, its Board of Trustees, officers, administrators, and employees from any claim or liability arising out of my exposure to latex either on the campus of Long Beach City College or in any clinical setting.

Signature: ______________________________ **Date:** ______________________