

State of Michigan



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

Department of Agriculture

DAN WYANT, Director

Commission of Agriculture
Douglas E. Darling
James E. Maitland
William G. Pridgeon
Jordan B. Tatter
Nara M. Viau

DATE: July 11, 2001

TO: All Local Health Departments
Attn.: Health Officer/Director of Environmental Health/Chief Sanitarian

FROM: Food Service Sanitation Section
Food and Dairy Division

SUBJECT: **Latex Gloves Allergies and the Food Industry Fact Sheet**

Representatives from local health, the food industry, MDA, and academia convened at the Great Lakes Conference on Food Protection in April to discuss key food safety program issues. Specific areas of concern were identified, and recommendations were made. Some resolutions were drafted for action that will be championed by state representatives at the national level while others were directed to MDA to be dealt with locally. In the months to come, you will see the fruits of the conference unfold.

One of the recommendations to be handled locally was the development of a "Fact Sheet" providing information relative to the potential problems associated with the use of latex gloves. Attached is a copy of a fact sheet titled "Latex Glove Allergies and the Food Industry," which was developed by our Food Safety Planning and Response Unit. The sheet provides information for the industry to consider when making decisions regarding employee and customer health.

This fact sheet may be found posted on the MDA web page. Additional copies may be printed from the web page. We will not be maintaining a printed supply.

NDF:TC:khg

Enclosure

cc: Food Service Sanitation Section
Food Safety Planning and Response Unit