

STATE OF DELAWARE

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**STATEMENT
IN OBSERVANCE OF
LATEX ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK**

Whereas, in 1997, the United States Food and Drug Administration ordered that any medical device containing latex carry a warning about potential allergic reactions; and

Whereas, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health issued an alert that year requesting assistance in preventing allergic reactions to natural rubber latex among workers who use gloves and other products containing latex; and

Whereas, latex gloves have been used as a tool in the health care industry to prevent the transmission of many infectious diseases and latex is used in emergency equipment, personal protective equipment, the childcare, food service and food processing industries and in office and household supplies; and

Whereas, with its growing use, there is more awareness that latex and latex-containing products may trigger allergic reactions including skin rashes, hives, itching, swollen red skin, swollen lips or tongue, shortness of breath, dizziness, fainting, eye or sinus symptoms, asthma and, rarely, shock; and

Whereas, it is important that people who work in fields that use latex and latex-containing products are aware of the possibility of allergic reaction,

Now, Therefore, We, Ruth Ann Minner, Governor, and John C. Carney, Jr., Lieutenant Governor, do hereby declare October 4 through 10, 2001,

LATEX ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Delaware, and urge all Delawareans to familiarize themselves with the dangers of latex allergies and consult with their physicians about them.

Ruth Ann Minner, Governor

John C. Carney, Jr., Lieutenant Governor