



HEALTH ADVISORY

Defective Imported Medical Gloves



The California Department of Public Health’s Food and Drug Branch is warning consumers about the dangers of using certain imported medical gloves currently [under investigation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#). The investigation is focused on gloves manufactured with defects, such as holes, that are not suitable for import. Medical gloves include patient exam gloves and surgeon’s procedure gloves. Medical gloves provide barrier protection against a wide range of infective disease agents, and defective medical gloves are a potential health hazard for both users and patients, increasing the risk of spread of infection or illness. For a list of FDA-cleared medical gloves, search the [following FDA database](#) with the product codes: FMC, LYY or LZA. Please note, while gloves can offer barrier protection against spread of infections, they do not offer protection against respiratory transmission.



When using medical gloves for barrier protection it is important to be

careful of the following:

- Check for soiling or discoloration indicating reuse
- Check the packaging for expiration date, gloves provide less barrier protection past the manufacturer recommended lifetime
- Check for visible tears or holes in the glove
- For non-sterile gloves, if you suspect puncture or leakage, you can briefly inflate the glove and check for airtightness.



Additional information regarding medical gloves is summarized in the following table.

Material	Infection Barrier	Banned for Sale in US	Sustainability
Nitrile	Yes	No	Recyclable
Latex	Yes	No	Compostable
Powdered Nitrile	Yes	Yes	Recyclable
Powdered Latex	Yes	Yes	Compostable

For more information regarding this topic and other personal protective equipment (PPE) please go to the [CDC’s website](#). Consumers can report the sale of used or defective gloves to CDPH’s Food and Drug Branch Hotline at (800) 495-3232 or email fdbmeddevice@cdph.ca.gov to initiate an investigation.

www.cdph.ca.gov