

## Universal Precautions in Animal Facilities and Laboratories

' Fresh animal tissues, blood, body fluids or wastes should be recognized as potential sources of zoonotic disease.

' Persons who handle potentially infectious materials and who are at risk of occupational exposure should receive appropriate immunizations or tests for the agents handled or potentially present (Hepatitis B and rabies vaccination, or TB test, etc.).

' Always wear protective clothing; a lab coat, gown or surgical scrub suit is the minimum.

' Personal protective equipment provides additional means of preventing exposure. Latex gloves provide very good protection and should be worn when handling potentially infectious materials. Do not re-use or wash disposable gloves, replace them. Utility gloves may be decontaminated between uses if they are intact - not torn or cracked. If gloves are needed for your work and you cannot wear latex, see your supervisor for alternatives.

' Wash your hands after handling animals or infectious material, after removing gloves and before leaving the animal facility or the laboratory.

' Wear facial protection, like goggles and a mask, or a face shield when performing procedures that may splash or splatter. Persons who wear contact lenses in animal facilities or in the laboratory should also wear goggles or a face shield.

' Engineering controls, such as mechanical pipettes and biosafety cabinets, are the primary means of exposure prevention.

' Work practice controls, like not re-capping used needles and using a broom/dust pan to clean up broken glass, are a secondary method of exposure prevention.

' Conduct all procedures in a manner which will minimize splashing, spraying, splattering, and generation or droplets of blood or other potentially infectious materials, use biological safety cabinets, centrifuge covers, protective environmental coverings.

' Place contaminated sharps in assigned labeled, puncture-resistant, leak-proof containers.

' Dispose of other potentially infectious waste in a red bag for biomedical waste.

' Label materials and storage areas with the red biohazard symbol.

' Clean and disinfect your work area with a detergent and a disinfectant when you are finished or at the end of the day. A 1:10 freshly prepared dilution of bleach in water is adequate for most types of work.

' Decontaminate equipment before removing it from the area or submitting it for service.

' Report any exposure or injury to your supervisor immediately. Seek medical attention for parenteral, mucous membrane or non-intact skin contact.

' Do not eat, drink, smoke, use tobacco products, apply cosmetics or lip balm, or handle contact lenses in the animal facility, in the lab, or around potentially infectious materials.