

University of Pittsburgh  
Animal Exposure Surveillance Program



Presented by

Employee Health Service

Medical Arts Building  
3708 Fifth Avenue, 505  
Pittsburgh PA 15213  
412-647-4949

If you work with research animals, enter an area where research animals are housed or work in an area where unfixed tissues or samples from animals are utilized for research purposes, you are required to participate in the **Animal Exposure Surveillance Program (AESP)**.

The University of Pittsburgh's AESP is a comprehensive program developed to provide protection from diseases that may be acquired from research animals, as well as animal allergens. The program follows standards for occupational health established by AAALAC, NIH, USDA and CDC along with Pitt's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and Pitt's Department of Environmental Health and Safety.

Each person who enrolls in the AESP is evaluated individually to ensure personalized and appropriate care for safe employment. The evaluation is repeated every three years (and more often for certain workers).

**If you have any questions, please email: [myhealthatworkpitt@upmc.edu](mailto:myhealthatworkpitt@upmc.edu) or call 412-647-4949.**

The material presented in this packet describes the different aspects of Pitt's Animal Exposure Surveillance Program (AESP):

1. **Pre placement evaluation** (form available at: <https://www.ehs.pitt.edu/lab-safety/animal-research> ) to collect information about your health status as it relates to your work at the University.
2. **Immunizations**

**RECOMMENDED OR REQUIRED VACCINES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE EMPLOYEE HEALTH SERVICE FREE OF CHARGE (412-647-4949).**

- Anthrax Vaccination
  - Required for all employees working with anthrax or with animals infected with anthrax. This is a series of injections.
- Seasonal Flu Vaccine
  - Recommended for all employees. Required for employees that handle specific stains of influenza virus. Required for all employees that also perform direct patient care at UPMC medical facilities.
- Hepatitis B Vaccine
  - Recommended for all employees with occupational exposure to human blood, blood products and other potentially infectious material. This is a three injection series.
- Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine (JE-VAX)
  - Required for individuals working with Japanese Encephalitis virus or with animals infected with Japanese Encephalitis virus.

- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Vaccine
  - Initial vaccination/disease typically occurs during childhood.
  - If you have direct contact with non-human primates during performance of your duties evaluation of measles immunity is required and is completed during initial enrollment in the AESP.
  - If a booster or measles vaccination is needed, you will be notified by Employee Health.
- Meningococcal Vaccine
  - Required for all employees working with bacteria that can cause meningitis.
- Rabies Vaccine
  - The rabies vaccine may be either recommended or required depending on the duties for your position. Please check with your supervisor.
- Tetanus Diphtheria Pertussis Vaccine
  - Recommended every 10 years for all employees with animal contact.
- Vaccinia Vaccine
  - Screening for vaccinia vaccination is required for all employees working with vaccinia virus or animals infected with this virus. Vaccination is recommended for all employees working with monkeypox or other specific strains of vaccinia, as determined by Employee Health Services.
- Yellow Fever Vaccine
  - Required for all individuals working with the Yellow Fever virus or animals infected with this virus.

### 3. Screening/Surveillance

#### Required:

- Tuberculosis (TB; caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) screening is required every six months to enter facilities housing non-human primates (NHPs), or to work with bacteria that can cause TB or unfixed tissues from non-human primates.

#### Available by request:

- Your blood can be tested upon request to determine whether you have been unknowingly exposed to a pathogen you handle while at work. This occupational health screening is voluntary and may be requested at Employee Health Services for individuals who directly handle the following infectious agents or animals infected with:
  - Bacteria in the genus *Brucella*
  - Chikungunya virus

- *Francisella tularensis*- strongly recommended prior to initial contact at the University for workers with a prior history of working with the organism
- Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or Simian Immunodeficiency virus (SIV) - yearly
- West Nile virus
- *Yersinia pestis*
- *Toxoplasma gondii*

#### 4. Exposure evaluation/treatment

- If you believe an exposure to potentially infectious material has occurred
  - Notify your supervisor immediately
  - If exposure involves broken skin, sharps injury, bite or scratch wash the injury thoroughly with soap and water.
  - If exposure involves splash to mucous membranes flush with water from an eyewash station for 15 minutes.
  - If the injury involved a non-human primate (NHP) or NHP body fluids, locate the exposure kit and follow the instructions provided inside the kit for scrubbing any wound that may be involved.
  - Notify and report to Employee Health Services, during normal business hours
    - Monday – Friday 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM
    - Report to UPMC Presbyterian Emergency Room during non-business hours of Employee Health
- Employee Health Services phone number: 412-647- 4949

#### 5. Additional Evaluations

- **Please contact Employee Health Services if you have any change in your health.**
- Chronic Illnesses
  - If you are being treated for a chronic disease (e.g. diabetes mellitus, asthma, COPD) please notify Employee Health Service.
  - Diseases and/or medications which lower your immunity, such as chemotherapy or other treatments for cancer or HIV should be reported to Employee Health Services (412 647-4949) immediately.
- Reproductive Hazards/Pregnancy
  - If you have concerns about pregnancy or fathering a child in relation to your work with animals or potentially infectious materials, please contact Employee Health Services

(412-647-4949). If you become pregnant, please update your medical information with Employee Health Services.

- Allergies
  - Allergy to animals can commonly develop in anyone who has contact with animals. Symptoms such as watery eyes, sneezing, wheezing, or hives should be reported to Employee Health Service (412-647-4949) immediately.
- BSL – 3 Worker Screening
  - All employees assigned to work in a Biosafety Level 3 area will be evaluated prior to approval to work in the Biosafety Level 3 laboratory, and shall update their medical information on file in Employee Health on an annual basis.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING ANY OF THE ABOVE SERVICES IS AVAILABLE BY CONTACTING EMPLOYEE HEALTH AT 412-647-4949 or in the Animal Exposure Surveillance Program document, available at: <https://www.ehs.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/docs/03-008AnimalExposure.pdf>**

**Additional Information is available at: <https://www.ehs.pitt.edu/lab-safety/animal-research>**