



## Medical Surveillance

### Non-Contact Information Sheet for High Containment/High Security Facilities

Personnel who may have exposure to biohazardous agents either directly or indirectly must enroll in the UGA Occupational Health Program.

- Staff members who may handle biohazardous agents must fill in the UGA Occupational Health Questionnaire form, [available here](#).
- Staff members, visitors, vendors or students entering high containment laboratories or high security laboratories on campus must fill in this non-contact form to provide for enrollment in the UGA Occupational Health Program.

The following information is for persons entering high containment or high security laboratories or animal facilities whose daily work activities do not include direct contact with agents. This group may include, but is not limited to, operations and maintenance personnel, housekeeping staff, administrators, inspectors, contractors and visitors.

#### **Laboratory and animal facilities have the following associated hazards:**

1. With biohazardous agents, zoonotics and strict human pathogens are transmissible from animal to human, human to human, direct contact with pathogens, fomites or vectors such as arthropods. Contaminated sharp objects and aerosols present additional hazards.
2. Physical hazards may exist such as animal bites, scratches or kicks; lifting heavy animals, cages, or equipment, sharps hazards (needles, scalpel blades, Pasture pipets, scissors, etc.), and pressurized vessels or gases.
3. Chemical hazards and radiological hazards may exist.
4. Animal allergies associated with exposure to contact or respiratory allergens, such as animal dander and urine are of significant risk in animal facilities.

#### **Animal Allergies:**

In the animal vivarium, development of allergies is the most common occupational hazard for personnel. Once a person develops an allergy, when exposed to the allergen, histamine release and other factors can cause a variety of symptoms including, but not limited to, runny nose; sneezing and coughing; itchy and watery eyes; skin reactions; respiratory symptoms including an asthma or difficulty breathing in severe cases.

#### **Biohazardous Agents:**

Hazards associated with any biohazardous agent are agent-specific. Therefore, agent-specific biosafety and biosecurity information sheets must be reviewed prior to entry. Non-contact persons entering laboratory or animal facilities are at low risk of developing allergies to animals or illness from agents stored and used within the facility. However, upon entering the animal facility you will do the following:

1. Contact the laboratory or animal supervisor for guidance and facility specific concerns.
2. Do not handle or touch agents, equipment or animals in the facility.
3. Follow instructions posted at the entry door regarding PPE, medical surveillance, personal quarantines, etc.
4. Follow any direction provided in the Biohazardous Agent information sheet.

