

Occupational Health Program for Visitors Requesting Access to the Biomedical Resource Center (BRC)

PLEASE NOTE:

* All animal resource center facility visitors must wear a lab coat upon entering the facility. The BRC Animal Facility Manager or Veterinarian may determine that additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is necessary (e.g., you work in another animal facility, or you are exposed to other animals on a regular basis).

* Animal facility guests are not allowed to touch or handle animals.

The BRC is an animal care/research facility which houses a number of different animal species. The BRC staff works to maintain a safe and healthy environment for both the individuals visiting the BRC as well as those working in the facility. Unfortunately, there are some environmental hazards such as animal allergens that cannot be completely eliminated through engineering controls. Therefore, visitors who will be entering the BRC facility are asked to sign this form after reviewing it.

Diseases communicable from animals to humans- Zoonotic Diseases

Humans may be susceptible to infectious diseases animals harbor or carry. Infectious diseases transmitted from animals to humans are called zoonotic diseases. In many cases the animals show little, if any, signs of illness. A bacterium from the normal flora of a healthy animal may cause a serious disorder in a person exposed to it. While the animals may have “resistance” to these microorganisms, humans with no previous exposure to the agent may lack this protection. Therefore, one should always be aware of the possible consequences of working with animals and take appropriate precautions to minimize the risk of infection. If you do become ill, it is important that you inform your primary care physician you have been exposed to animals. Some commonsense steps can be taken to decrease the risk of infection. These include cleanliness (i.e. hand washing). You can protect yourself against accidental self-inoculation of a zoonotic disease by wearing gloves, respiratory protection (if warranted), lab coats, or other personal safety gear while touring the animal facility.

****Be aware that laboratory animals (particularly rats, rabbits, guinea pigs, and hamsters) are sources of potent allergens to sensitized persons. Repeated exposure may lead to a more serious problem such as occupational asthma.****

Hazardous agents STATEMENT:

Methods exist for monitoring exposure to potentially hazardous biological, chemical, and physical agents. Protective devices are used, and other safety practices consistent with safety guidelines are in use in this facility. Potentially hazardous chemicals in the animal laboratory and animal facility include but are not limited to disinfectants, cleaning agents and anesthetics.

Pregnancy risks STATEMENT:

If you are pregnant or may be pregnant, avoid touring areas where hazardous agents including radioactive material is used or stored. Inhalation of toxic chemicals and certain anesthetic vapors should be avoided, especially during the first trimester of pregnancy.

I HAVE REVIEWED THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM FOR VISITORS REQUESTING ACCESS TO THE BIOMEDICAL RESOURCE CENTER, AND HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RISK ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO ANIMALS AND AM PREPARED TO TOUR THE ANIMAL FACILITY.

Entrant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____