

ANIMAL ALLERGY/EXPOSURE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

Occupational Health Program

The program exists to ensure and promote a healthy and safe working environment through risk assessment, application of appropriate controls, PPE, and medical surveillance.

Animal Allergy Medical Surveillance

After completing the Occupational Health Risk Assessment you may be asked to complete a confidential medical questionnaire to evaluate for occupational illness/allergies, provide immunization updating, and testing.

Surveillance helps to identify and alert at risk individuals, and monitor for the development of work related allergies or conditions.

Advantages – Protection From:

- Development of allergies
- Zoonotic diseases
- Physical/Ergonomic Injuries
- Completing surveys and medical evaluations gives you the opportunity to privately discuss any occupational health concerns with a medical professional.

Contact Us

Office of Research Integrity & Compliance

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Safety Office

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Animal Allergies



Allergens produced by ALL ANIMALS are found in urine and feces, bedding, fur, and other materials. The most common allergy inducers include rats, mice, guinea pigs and rabbits.

Up to 44% of people routinely working with animals develop allergic symptoms!

Symptoms and Risks

Allergic symptoms can develop over the course of 1-3 years and can include rhinitis, itchy eyes, rashes, and more.

- More than 70% of people with pre-existing allergic disease eventually develop allergy to lab animals
- An estimated 10% of lab workers eventually develop chronic asthma, even if they no longer work with animals!

Zoonotic Diseases Disease

caused by infectious agents that are transmitted from animals to humans can be bacteria viruses, parasites and fungi. Examples include:

- Tularemia
- Plague
- Rabies
- E. coli
- Campylobacter
- MRSA
- Salmonella
- Cryptosporidiosis

Individuals with a weakened immune system from pre-existing conditions, chemo or radiation therapy, corticosteroid treatment, or splenectomy may be particularly vulnerable to these infectious agents!

Only you can Protect Yourself! – Enrollment in the Occupational Health Program is the first step