

# OLDS COLLEGE

## SAFE WORK PROCEDURES ZOO NOTIC HAZARDS

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Olds College strives to protect the health and safety of employees, students and visitors while at the college. This document provides preventative measures to limit exposure to zoonotic organisms and guidelines for those who have become infected with a zoonotic disease.

### **LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code

### **PURPOSE**

This safe work procedure provides directions on how to keep employees, students and visitors exposure to zoonotic organisms as low as possible and to minimize the health risk for employees and students once they have are exposed.

### **DEFINITIONS**

Zoonotic diseases are diseases caused by infectious agents that can be transmitted between (*or are shared by*) animals and humans. Zoonotic diseases encountered in working with or coming in contact with infected animals are assigned to the following classification levels based on transmissibility of the agent to other animals and/or zoonotic potential:

**CLASS 1:** Infectious diseases caused by agents that have no likelihood of transmission and no potential for human infection.

**CLASS 2:** Infectious diseases caused by agents that have a low level of transmission and may include nonresistant bacterial infections.

**CLASS 3:**

**SUBCLASS A:** Resistant Bacteria. Infections caused by bacteria with highly resistant antimicrobial susceptibility patterns. These patients are identified by the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory to have resistance to specifically defined antimicrobial drugs.  
ISOLATE ANIMALS.

**SUBCLASS B:** Infectious diseases caused by agents with a moderate level of transmission and/or are potential human pathogens

## **HOUSE ANIMALS UNDER RESTRICTED CAGE CONDITIONS NOT ISOLATION**

*Please see Appendix “H” for a list of Class 3 Zoonotic Diseases*

**CLASS 4:** Infectious diseases in this class are caused by agents that are considered to have a high level of transmission and/or are extremely serious human pathogens.

## **ANIMALS SHOWING SIGNS OF THESE DISEASES MUST BE PLACED IN ISOLATION**

*Please see Appendix “I” for a list of Class 4 Zoonotic Diseases*

## **HAZARD IDENTIFICATION**

School of Animal Science is required to complete a hazard assessment to identify their level of risk for current or potential contact with zoonotic pathogens. The hazard assessment should identify the jobs, tasks and procedures for which exposure to a zoonotic pathogen is possible. *See attached Appendices A - G*

## **HAZARD CONTROLS**

As with other hazards, the following controls should be examined in the following order. It is often necessary to include more than one control.

### **A. Engineering Controls**

Engineering controls reduce the exposure to zoonotic pathogens by removing or isolating the hazard or isolating users from exposure. (*See OH&S Safe work Procedures for Biological Hazards*)

Examples:

- Sharps containers (*See OH&S Safe Work Procedures for Biological Procedures*)
- Self –sheathing needles or needleless systems
- Splatter guards
- Biological safety cabinets
- Mechanical pipetting systems in laboratories

### **B. Administrative Controls** (*See OH&S Safe Work Procedures for Biological Hazards*)

Administrative controls reduce user exposure to zoonotic pathogens by altering the way a task is performed.

Examples:

- Hand Hygiene – Wash hands before and after each patient encounter and after contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions or articles contaminated with these fluids. Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking; after using the toilet; after cleaning animal cages or animal care areas; and whenever hands are visibly soiled. Alcohol- based gels may be

used if hands are not visibly soiled, but hand washing with soap and running water is preferred. Keep fingernails short.

- Disposing of sharps into sharps containers immediately after use.
- Cleaning spills of material containing potential zoonotic pathogens
- Preventing the eating and storing of food and beverages in areas where persons may be exposed to a zoonotic pathogens.
- Universal precautions for infection control where workers may be exposed to potential zoonotic pathogens.

### **C. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

PPE should only be used once engineering and administrative controls are established. As with all hazards, PPE is the last resort. Specific PPE controls must be identified by each department and/or employees. (*See OH&S Safe Work Procedures for Biological Hazards*)

Examples:

- Use of gloves and sleeves
- Protective outerwear- lab coats, coveralls
- Facial protection – splash goggles, face shields, eye protection
- Respiratory protection – respirators

### **POST EXPOSURE MANAGEMENT**

As soon as possible after exposure to a zoonotic pathogen

1. The exposed person must wash the area with copious amounts of warm water and soap for 20 minutes
2. The zoonotic pathogen should be identified. Contact the coordinator of Health and Wellness Services.
3. The exposed person will be transported to medical services if required. (*see oh&s. guideline on transportation of an injured student or employee*)
4. The exposed person must consult with a physician as soon as possible. The physician should be supplied with information on the suspected contact with zoonotic pathogen.
5. Clean and disinfect exposed area where the suspected zoonotic pathogen was contacted
6. The exposed person must complete WCB forms.

### **TRAINING**

1. Training should be done by qualified personal for employees and students who have the potential of coming into contact with a zoonotic pathogen.
2. Training should include the hazards of zoonotic pathogens
3. Training should include the limitations of the controls that are established.
4. Training should include procedures to follow when exposed to any zoonotic pathogen.
5. Training should include the proper use of the PPE

6. Training should include both the inspection process and who to notify when there is an exposure

### **OLDS COLLEGE RESOURCES**

- OH&S Biological Safe Work Procedures
- OH&S Transportation of an Injured Student or Employee Policy
- OH&S Personal Protective Equipment Policy
- OH&S Code of Practice for Respiratory Equipment
- OH&S Code of Practice for Laboratory Standards

### **RESOURCES**

- Western College of Veterinary Medicine University of Saskatoon
- National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians