*All of your medical and health-related information (either verbal or written) will be strictly confidential by the Occupational Health Nurse. Your health conditions and/or medical information will not be revealed to other University departments or your supervisor unless you provide written permission to the Occupational Health Nurse, or in the case of a major emergency (under which information would only be revealed on a “need-to-know” basis).*

**Special Notice:**

Due to occupational job duties, you may be at risk of exposure to potentially infectious materials and/or blood or blood products that may put you at risk for acquiring diseases. Certain accommodations may be required for your safety, including immunizations, use of respirator, special protective equipment or clothing, etc. The Occupational Health Nurse will inform you of any additional requirements. If you are immunocompromised (e.g. due to treatment of certain diseases such as cancer, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, asthma; as a result of chronic viral illness; or as a result of having your spleen removed) special consideration may need to be made for your safety. You are encouraged to confidentially discuss your conditions with the Occupational Health Nurse or your personal care physician. **Female Personnel:** If you are pregnant or become pregnant while involved in the animal care and use program, certain precautions may need to be taken during your pregnancy due to the risks associated with animals, biohazardous, materials, radiation, or chemical agents. You are required to provide a release from your personal care physician.

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name:** | **Date:** | **Male [ ]** **Female [ ]**  | **Date of Birth:** |
| **Email:** | **Work Phone:** | **Alternate Phone (Home, cell, etc.):** |
| **Position/Title:**  | **Department:** | **Supervisor/Principal Investigator:** |

**Health Status:**

1. **Please report any changes (since your last report and/or for the upcoming year) in your position or duties as it involves your potential exposure to animals (enter N/A if none):**
2. **Y [ ]  N [ ]  Do you have allergies (sneezing spells, runny or stuffy nose, watery or itchy eyes, coughing, wheezing, shortness**

 **of breath, or skin rash or hives), asthma or asthma-like symptoms, or any other type of reaction after exposure**

 **to animals or their cages/bedding?**

 **2.a. If Yes, how often and to which animals?**

 **2.b. Has the problem worsened in the last year?**

1. **Y [ ]  N [ ]  Are you immunosuppressed, post-splenectomy or taking immunosuppressant drugs?**

 **If yes, please explain and list drugs:**

1. **Y [ ]  N [ ]  Do you have any disabilities/limitations which would affect your ability to perform work duties**

 **(bend, lift, carry, walk, read, talk)? If yes, please explain:**

1. **Y [ ]  N [ ]  Will you be working with or have exposure to biohazards, chemical hazards, or radiation /radioactive**

 **material during the course of your work? If yes, please describe:**

1. **Y [ ]  N [ ]  Do you have any health or workplace concerns not covered by the questionnaire that you feel may**

 **affect your occupational health and would like to confidentially discuss with the Occupational Health**

 **Nurse (e.g., questions regarding immunity or medical conditions)? If you select “yes,” the**

 **Occupational Health Nurse will contact you for follow-up.**

**Certification and Signature:**

I have answered the questions on this form truthfully and to the best of my recollection and continue my enrollment in the occupational health and safety program.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature Date**

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

 **For Use by the Occupational Health Nurse**

**[ ]  Tetanus or other immunization on file and current. [ ]  Enrollee is medically eligible to work with animals. [ ]  Additional OH&S requirements or recommendations have been communicated to the enrollee and to Regulatory Services (list here):**

**Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ms. Dolores Aguilar, RN, MS, APN, College of Nursing Date**

***Working Safely with Laboratory Animals***

The University of North Texas Health Science Center actively promotes the safe handling of animals used in research. This handout introduces some of the rists associated with the handling of animals and describes the steps that should be taken to minimize them.

**Risks in Handling Animals**

The hazads associated with handling animals or their tissues can be divided into three categories:

1. Physical injuries includes bides and scratches inflicted by rodents, rabbits, cats, and other species. The key to preventing these types of injuries is proper training of research personnel by animal care staff or other qualified individuals.
2. Allergies are associated with respiratory or contact allergens such as animal dander or urine. All personnel should be aware that laboratory animals are sources of potential allergens such as animal dander or urine. All personnel should be aware that laboratory animals are sources of potential allergens. The best policy in most circumstanes is to prevent exposure by wearing adequate personal protective equipment.
3. Zoonotic diseases are those that can be transmitted from animals to humans, and from humans to animals. Although zoonotic diseases are not common in modern animal faclities, their prevention and detection must be an important concern of all personnel who work with animals in the laboratory. Remember that zoonotic diseases can be transmitted by tissues as well as by live animals.

**Zoonotic Diseases**

Humans are sometimes susceptible to infectious diseases carried by animals even when the animals themselves show few signs of illness. Micro-organisms in the normal flora of a healthy animal may cause serious illness in persons who have had no previous exposure to the organism and lack protective immunity. Persons who are immunosuppressed because of medication or underlying medical conditions may be at a higher risk of infection. Workders should be aware of these possibiliites and take precautions to minimize the risk of infections. In the event that you do becmoe ill with a fever or some other sign of infection, it is important to tell your physician that you work with animals.

**Personal Hygiene and Protection**

There are simple steps that can be taken to lesson the risk of infection when working with animals. These include not eating, drinking or applying cosmetics ro contact lenses around animasl or animal care areas; wearing gloves when handling animals or their tissues; taking care not to rub your face with contaminated hands or gloves; and washing your hands after each animals contact. Research personnel can protect themselves by limiting their use of needles and syringes, taking enough time to give injections properly, anesthetizing animals prior to inoculation with infectious agents, and using a two-person team to inoculate animals. Do not recap used needles! Discard them promptly in a biohazard “sharps” container. For procedures such as necorpsies, bedding changes, and tissue and fluid samplings, containment devices such as biological safety cabinets, full face respirators or other personal safety gear should be used as indicated. Consult your superviosr or the DLAM Manager if you feel you need additional tratining at any time.

**What You Should Know if You Work with Rodents or Rabbits**

Allergies are common among personnel who work with rodents (e.g., mice, rats, gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters) and rabbits. If you already are sensitized to rodent dander, or if you become sensitized, you should report this immediately to the Occupational Health Nurse (contact information below) and your supervisor.

Contact with rodents presents the potenital for diseases such as dwarf tapeworm, lymphocytic choriomeningitis (LCM), salmonellosis and ringworm. To protect against these agents, care should be taken to limit direct and aerosol exposure to soiled bedding containing feces and urine. Gloves and masks limint exposure to soiled bedding and help prevent transimssion of diseases such as ringworm and fur mites. During transportation (approved by the IACUC), animals should be transported in micro-isolator caging and with approved covers in the freight elevator only to help limit exposure to non-animal workers.

**If you are injured…**

Contact your supervisor immediately if you are bitten or scratched by an animal, or if you cut or scratch yourself on animal caging. If you are experiencing unusual disease symptoms, contact the Occupational Health Nurse, Dolores Aguilar at (214) 505-7660 or dsaguilar@icloud.com.