

MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty, Staff, Post Doctoral Fellows, Students, and Contractors

FROM: Nancy Ator, Ph.D.
Chairman, Johns Hopkins Animal Use and Care Committee

Edward J. Bernacki, MD, MPH,
Executive Director, Health, Safety & Environment

DATE: August 13, 2002

SUBJECT: Requirements for Staff Exposed to Laboratory Animals

If you are exposed to animals either directly or indirectly, their bedding, waste products, fresh animal tissues or equipment involved in animal use and care, Johns Hopkins requires the following to reduce your health risks associated with animal exposures:

Medical:

All faculty, staff, postdoctoral fellows, students and contractors who work with or are exposed to animals and/or their body fluids, fresh tissues, bedding or caging must be enrolled in the Animal Exposure Surveillance Program (AESP), managed by the Occupational Health Services, 98 N. Broadway, 4th floor. This program allows Johns Hopkins to:

- a) offer you appropriate protection from diseases associated with animal use and care,
- b) review your current health status and
- c) monitor your health during employment.

Vaccinations/testing are performed free of charge by the Occupational Health Services for the following:

- a) Vaccinia vaccination for individuals exposed to non-highly attenuated orthopoxviruses that infect humans including cowpox, vaccinia and vaccinia subspecies (unless medically contraindicated).
- b) Rabies vaccination for a limited number of individuals, including Animal Services Staff, those using wild caught animals, dogs (conditioned), some non-human primates and farm animals. If you have already been vaccinated for rabies, blood tests are needed every other year to be sure you are still protected.
- c) Hepatitis B vaccination for those individuals who have not already been vaccinated.

Biannual tuberculosis screening is required for anyone who works around non-human primates.

If you have not yet enrolled in the AESP, or are unsure if you are enrolled, or need to be TB tested or vaccinated, please contact the Occupational Health Services at 4-1129.

Training:

All faculty, staff and students must attend the Hazard Communication training session at least once during their employment. If you were hired in 1998 or later, you received this training during New Employee Orientation. If you were hired before 1998 or if you failed to attend the New Employee Orientation, you need to attend one of these sessions. If you need to find out how to attend this training or are unsure whether you had this training, call Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) at 5-5918.

All faculty, staff and students with exposure to human or animal bloodborne pathogens will be entered in the Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Program. Training is required when hired or before starting work with bloodborne pathogen containing materials and annually thereafter. If you need to find out how to attend this training or are unsure whether you had this training, call HSE at 5-5918.

All faculty, staff and students who use radioactive isotopes or handle animals (or their cages or bedding) that have been treated with radioactive isotopes must attend the Radiation Safety training session. If you are unsure whether you have attended this training or need this training, call Radiation Safety at 5-3710.

Training Schedule for 2002

Hazard Communication, Blood borne Pathogen (BBP) and Radiation Safety training according to the following schedule. No registration is required.

June - December 2002, 2nd and 3rd Tuesday of each month
Phipps Bldg., Room 360
Hazcom 10:00 am
BBP 10:45 am
Radiation 1:00 pm

Policies:

Wearing particular types of clothing (such as surgical gowns, scrubs or smocks) and other items (such as masks or goggles) while working is required for specific jobs in order to protect you from injury or illness. The University will provide these required items to you to use on the job as necessary. Policies on "Personal Protective Equipment" are found in the Johns Hopkins Safety Manual. Ask your supervisor about the personal protective equipment needed for your job if you are unsure. You also may call HSE to ask questions about this.

The Johns Hopkins Safety Manual has information about the items above and about other policies and guidelines, such as incident and injury reporting, pre-placement assessment, and other topics.

If there is not a copy where you work, ask your supervisor to arrange for you to see a copy. The Safety Manual is also available on-line at the HSE Department's homepage, www.hopkinsmedicine.org/hse.

You can also ask your supervisor if you have any questions about this letter or call one of the above listed numbers for more information.