

Zoonotic Disease Risk Handout

This information sheet is being supplied to you to help assist you in understanding risks faced in the conduct of your job at The University of Toledo (UT). It is supplied to personnel identified as having a reasonable occupational exposure risk to the agent described. This information has been developed with the assistance of the UT Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine, Office of Health and Safety and the Office of Occupational Medicine. Questions and concerns should be directed to any of the units.

Psittacosis: For those personnel working with birds, exposure to Psittacosis, an acute generalized disease caused by the chlamydial agent, *Chlamydia psittaci*, must be considered. The individual may present with variable clinical symptoms such as fever, headache, rash, muscle pain, chills, and upper or lower respiratory tract disease. Although usually mild or moderate in character, human disease can be severe, especially in untreated elderly persons. The principal reservoirs are parakeets, parrots, and love birds; less commonly poultry, pigeons, canaries and sea birds. The mode of transmission is inhalation of the organism from desiccated droppings, secretions and dust from feathers of infected birds.

When ill, it is important to discuss your possible occupational exposures with your attending physician as this information can be instrumental in timely diagnosis and treatment.