

## 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.

**Primates in General:** A large number of illnesses can be passed from non-human primates such as monkeys to humans and from humans to non-human primates. Because of this, it is extremely important that employees exposed to or handling monkeys exercise particular caution. Protective clothing should always be worn, especially when confronting primates. Alert animals (not used to being handled) should be handled only while wearing bite proof gloves. Ideally, animals should be sedated before procedures are performed. Employees who are ill should not work with monkeys since the employee may transmit diseases to the monkey. Personal hygiene must be scrupulously maintained by all those exposed to non-human primates. Any scratch or bite must be immediately reported to the supervisor.

**Tuberculosis:** Tuberculosis can be devastating in a monkey colony. Special precautions are taken for individuals working with non-human primates, their products or care devices.

**Rubeola (measles):** Measles is a deadly disease in non-human primates and has become more common:

1. Persons with active cases of measles will be prohibited from any primate facility.
2. Persons (unvaccinated) with exposure to known cases of rubeola will be excluded from the primate facility for up to 21 days.
3. Vaccination:
  - a. Due to the potential personal and public health consequences associated with rubeola infection, all employees working in rooms containing non-human primates must have documented proof of immunity or be vaccinated.
  - b. Exceptions to vaccination include those who:
    - i. Have written documentation of one vaccination which must have been administered after 12/31/79, or
    - ii. Have documented laboratory evidence of measles immunity, or
    - iii. Have a history of anaphylactic reaction to the ingestion of eggs or to the topical or systemic administration of neomycin, or

- iv. Have significant altered immunity as the result of various diseases or medical therapy, or
- v. Have a severe febrile illness, or
- vi. Have received immune globulin within the preceding three months, or
- vii. Are pregnant or plan on becoming pregnant within three months of vaccination.
- viii. Born on or before December 31, 1956.
- c. Employees in categories vi, vii, and/or viii would be candidates for vaccination at a later time.
- d. Rubeola susceptible enrollees refusing vaccination are prohibited from working directly with non-human primates.