

## **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.

**Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis Virus:** Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis Virus (LCMV) is an arena virus that infects some rodents. The infection is rare in research animals. However, when present in infected rodents, it is shed in large amounts and is highly contagious. Infected rodents typically do not demonstrate clinical illness and may shed the virus over their entire life span. Infection of laboratory workers has occurred on multiple occasions. Mice and hamsters have been the cause of transmission to humans in those cases. LCMV represents a special infection risk because it has been found to infect tissue culture cells and transplantable tumors used in animals. These sources have been found to be important in the movement of the virus between laboratories and into animals where it subsequently infects humans. Thus, these sources must be monitored for the virus (arrangements for testing can be made by the Lab Animal Facility).

In humans, the infection usually manifests with flu-like symptoms (fever, headache, nausea, etc.) but may cause brain infections and can cause death. No vaccine or specific treatment is available. As with all infectious diseases, hand washing is important for reducing risk. As commercially-available laboratory rodents are free of the virus, the most important source is cell lines and transplantable tumors used in animals and these should be tested.

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.