

Medical Surveillance for Columbia University Personnel Students working with macaques

You are receiving this email because your Supervisor/Principal Investigator/Department Administrator has determined you are a student who will work with macaques.

Students could be graduate students or work-study students. Researcher exposure to macaque body fluid or tissue warrants immediate medical surveillance for potential herpesvirus simiae (herpes B) virus. The NYPH Workforce Health and Safety (WHS) clinic at CUIMC is the only clinic to evaluate students with such exposures; the student health clinics at CUIMC and MS will not receive students for macaque exposures. As always, exposures outside of business hours should be evaluated at the NYPH Emergency Room.

Action is required on your part:

1. In order to enroll in medical surveillance you need to make a baseline visit to WHS to provide a medical and vaccination history. You will then have a chart on file and will be able to be evaluated in an expedient way following a macaque body fluid or tissue exposure. The cost of implementing this medical surveillance will be covered through CUIMC HR; there will be no cost incurred by students.
2. Ensure vaccination. Work with macaques require that you are immune to measles.
3. Get trained. Work with macaques requires Rascal Course TC1350 -The Macaque: Computer Based Training.
4. Understand how to use a bite kit. Bite kits are located wherever macaques are handled.
5. Understand how to use a Print & Go sheet
<https://research.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/EHS/Homepage/herpesBPrintAndGo.pdf>
6. Seek immediate medical attention if a potential exposure to macaque body fluid or percutaneous exposure to post-mortem tissue has occurred. During business hours report to WHS. After hours report to the NYPH emergency room. Notify your PI, ICM veterinarian on call - (917) 232-5319 and the biosafety office and complete an accident report form.
7. Some lab acquired infections with cultured infectious agents have no attributable event. Understand the symptomology associated with the infection with herpes B virus. Seek immediate medical attention if a potential exposure to herpes B virus is suspected.
8. Participate in an Annual Health Review (AHR). This includes screening for tuberculosis exposure. Personnel will complete the AHR online. All forms must be completed on the online portal
<https://myapps.nyp.org/AHR/Account/Login>.

Questions about the Columbia University Biological Safety Program can be addressed to Environmental Health and Safety: email biosafety@columbia.edu.