

Occupational Health & Safety Program **For Personnel Whose UMKC Duties Involve Substantial** **Animal Contact**

The Public Health Service requires UMKC to have an effective occupational health program as part of the Program of animal care and use. As a part of that program, the regulations further require the university to have an effective Occupational Health and Safety Program (OHSP) for all individuals who use animals or animal tissue. The purpose and goal of the OHSP is to identify, evaluate, manage, and reduce potential health and exposure risks associated with the care and use of animals at UMKC. Medical surveillance is a critical component of effective occupational health programs and involves the evaluation of health risks associated with an individual's exposure to animals. The initial evaluation establishes a baseline of an individual's health and potential exposure risks. Subsequent updates and periodic reviews are then performed to assess an individual's changing risks. In many cases, an initial evaluation and risk assessment is all that is necessary. For some individuals, however, a clinical examination and vaccination(s) may be required as well.

This program applies to any University agent (faculty, staff, students, volunteers, and visitors) who works with and may be at risk of illness or injury due to their exposure to vertebrate animals (live or dead); animal tissues, fluids, secretions, and/or excretions; or who handles caging and related equipment contaminated by animal tissues, fluids, secretions and/or excretions.

The UMKC Lab Animal Research Core (LARC) administration, principal investigator, or supervisor of the UMKC agent will ensure the agent completes the OHSP Animal Exposure Report Form (AERF) prior to working with animals. The AERF must be completed at the time of submission of a new IACUC protocol, a 3-year renewal of the protocol, or an amendment adding personnel. The completed AERF is reviewed by a health professional (e.g., physician or nurse practitioner) who recommends to the employee, any precautions the employee should take in order to minimize animal-related health and safety risks. In some cases, the health professional may recommend a vaccination or suggest an additional medical examination before an employee works with animals in order to assess the severity of existing conditions. The responsible animal facility manager, principal investigator, or supervisor of the agent will implement the health professional's recommendations and the IACUC will monitor the implementation.

IACUC protocols that contain biohazardous, chemical, biological, or radioactive materials used in animals are required to have prior protocol/permit approval(s) from the Institutional Biosafety Committee and/or Radiation Safety Committee and/or complete a "Hazardous Agent SOP" to be reviewed by the IACUC prior to protocol approval.

Health & Medical Surveillance Procedures

If a tetanus vaccination is recommended after review of the AERF, the UMKC agent can make

an appointment at the UMKC Student Health and Wellness Center to receive the vaccination at no cost. To secure the vaccination the UMKC agent must:

1. Schedule an appointment with the UMKC Student Health and Wellness Center to receive the tetanus vaccination.
2. Bring a printed copy of the email from the Health Professional to the appointment.

The Student Health and Wellness Center will bill the Office of Research Services for the vaccination costs.

Health Care Provider – UMKC Student Health and Wellness Center:

- Screens the AERF for assessment of work-related risks relating to work with animals (live or dead) and animal derivatives.
- Provides immunizations for tetanus.

Resources:

- UMKC Research Compliance Office.
<https://ors.umkc.edu/services/compliance/iacuc/iacuc-training-requirements.html>
- Occupational Health and Safety in the Care and Use of Research Animals. 1997. NRC, National Academy of Sciences. <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/read/4988/chapter/1>
- Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories. 1999. HHS Pub. No. (CDC) 93-8395. <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/97733>
- AAALAC presentation on Occupational Health and Safety