

Policy:	Occupational Health and Safety Program for Animal Users
Purpose:	Evaluate research personnel training and exposure risks within animal facility
Applicable To:	UMass Boston Research Community

Procedure:

Participation in the university's Occupational Health and Safety Program (OHSP) is required for all faculty, staff, students who work in university laboratory animal facilities or conduct research with animals or animal tissues. Faculty, staff and students should complete this. The purpose and goal of the OHSP is to identify, evaluate, manage, and reduce potential health risks associated with the care and use of animals at the university.

Risk Assessment Medical Questionnaires:

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 and hazardous agents. The initial evaluation establishes a baseline of an individual's health and potential exposure risks. Subsequent annual updates are then performed to assess an individual's changing risks.

1. Upon request to be on an IACUC protocol, and every 3 years, ORSP staff will request that a medical questionnaire for animal users is completed
2. Completed forms are submitted to ORSP
 - a. ORSP staff records participation and routes to Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) for review.
 - b. CHA notifies if individual is cleared or if the questionnaire identifies potential health risks, an Occupational Health Physician will contact the individual for further discussion and/or evaluation.
3. ORSP Staff will send triennial reminders to all project personnel in alignment with the renewal of their associated animal use protocols

Training and Education:

Training and education is required for all individuals listed on an animal use protocol. OHSP training will assist in ensuring the safety of animal researchers and the welfare of the research animals.

1. Animal Care and Use Training: This training covers policies related to animal care and use, IACUC processes, Animal Facility specific training and an introduction to the Occupational Health & Safety Program and will address topics including but not limited to; animal handling, bites and scratches, allergens, zoonoses, inherent hazards, personal protective equipment (PPE), personal hygiene, and UMass Boston animal facility procedures.
2. CITI Training: These are web-based courses provided through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program). Personnel are required to complete:



Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Effective Date: September 2017

Reviewed or Revised Date: November 2020

- a. Working with the IACUC;
 - b. Responsible Conduct of Research; and a
 - c. Species specific module.
3. Environmental Health & Safety Training: EHS training covers chemical hygiene, environmental management, general lab safety and the disposal of hazardous materials

References:

[The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals 8th Edition](#) (page 17-23)