

***Bacteroides* spp.**

Hazards: Species of *Bacteroides* (including *thetaiotaomicron*, *fragilis*, *uniformis*, and *vulgatus*) are responsible for bacterial infections including abscesses, surgical infections, and sepsis (bacteria in the blood). These agents are normally found in the gastrointestinal tract. Symptoms may include fever, fatigue, swelling, and pain of the affected area.

Risks: *Bacteroides* is spread through animal bites and cuts. The greatest risk of exposure is during cage changes where there is contact with contaminated bedding and infected animals.

Precautions: Wear PPE during cage changes (gloves, gown, and booties). Use a biosafety cabinet during cage changes. Follow ABSL-2 procedures for bedding disposal. Wash hands after work.

Emergency Response: In the event of an accidental bite or cut, stop working, wash the injured area for 15 minutes, tell your supervisor, and report to Occupational Medicine. If you are working in this area and develop symptoms, tell your supervisor and report to Occupational Medicine. Potential exposures and illnesses must be reported to EHRS by your supervisor or manager.