

Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV)

Hazards: Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV) is a viral pathogen associated with fever, cough, achiness, headache, light sensitivity, nausea, vomiting, and sore throat. Often, infection is asymptomatic in immunocompetent adults.

Risks: Transmission occurs through direct contact with damaged skin, mucous membranes, and contaminated surfaces as well as through consumption of contaminated food, water, and dust. Virus particles may be inhaled or transmitted through a rodent bite. The greatest risk of exposure to LCMV is during cage changes where there is contact with contaminated bedding and cages since the virus is shed through feces, urine, saliva, breast milk, and semen.

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 animal bite or other 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.