

***Bifidobacterium* spp.**

Hazards: *Bifidobacteria* are a group of bacteria that normally live in the intestines and stomach. They are essential for digestion and protect against harmful bacteria in the gut. They are a common component of commercially available probiotic supplements. Infection, though unlikely, may occur in immunocompromised individuals due to an overgrowth of bacteria.

Risks: Transmission occurs through the fecal-oral route, through contact with contaminated surfaces and objects, and through the ingestion of contaminated food or water. The greatest risk of exposure is during cage changes where there is contact with contaminated bedding and cages.

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: 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.