

## ***Haemophilus influenzae***

**Hazards:** *Haemophilus influenzae* can cause many kinds of bacterial infections. Infections may be mild or severe and may include infections of the ear, lung (pneumonia), blood, skin (cellulitis), and lining of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis). Early childhood vaccination in the U.S. prevents infection caused by the most common type of *H. influenzae*. The agent does **not** cause the flu.

**Risks:** *H. influenzae* is spread through inhalation of infectious droplets, skin exposure (needlestick, bite, or scratch), and direct contact with the mucous membranes (eyes, nose, and mouth). The greatest risk of exposure is during cage changes where there is contact with 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 accidental exposure, stop working, wash the affected 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.