

## ***Helicobacter hepaticus***

**Hazards:** *Helicobacter hepaticus* is a bacterial pathogen primarily associated with disease in mice. In humans, it has been associated with disease of the liver and biliary tract (bile ducts, gallbladder, and associated structures). Symptoms may include abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, and yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes.

**Risks:** Transmission occurs through the consumption of contaminated food or water. The greatest risk of exposure to *H. hepaticus* is during cage changes where there is contact with contaminated bedding that may be transferred to the mouth through contaminated hands, food, or water.

**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.