

Herpes simplex virus types 1 and 2

Hazards: Herpes simplex virus types 1 and 2 (HSV-1 and 2) is a virus that may cause symptoms throughout the body but is often known to cause cold sores and genital herpes. Symptoms include painful blisters on the lips, tongue, and mouth as well as the genital region, respectively. Other symptoms may include fever, fatigue, and headache.

Risks: Transmission occurs through direct contact with infected secretions or blisters as well as through inhalation of infectious droplets. 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.