

Influenza Viruses (A, B, C)

Hazards: Influenza A Virus is a respiratory virus which causes fever, headache, malaise, sore throat, cough, and muscle aches. Disease severity is highly dependent on viral type and strain; influenza A H1N1 and H3N2 and influenza B viruses are the most common and circulate seasonally. Vaccination is available for seasonal strains. Lab adapted versions of these strains (eg X31, PR8) cause severe disease in mice but are not known to cause worse disease in humans.

Risks: Transmission occurs through inhalation of aerosolized droplets expelled through coughing and sneezing. In an animal facility, the risk of exposure to these viruses is highest during cage change or bedding disposal.

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.