

Legionella pneumophila

Hazards: *Legionella pneumophila* is the causal agent of Legionnaire's disease, a severe form of pneumonia, and Pontiac fever, a non-pneumonic form of infection. Symptoms of Legionnaire's disease include confusion, headache, diarrhea, fever, abdominal pain, chills, and a non-productive cough. Disease is worse in the immune compromised and elderly. Symptoms of Pontiac fever are like that of the flu.

Risks: *L. pneumophila* is transmitted through contaminated aerosols, often fresh water sources. Transmission from human to human or from animal to human has not been documented. After the administration to animals, the risk of exposure to *L. pneumophila* from handling the animals during cage change or bedding disposal is low.

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 needlestick, 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.