

Listeria monocytogenes

Hazards: *Listeria monocytogenes* is a bacterial pathogen that causes flu-like (i.e. fever, headache, dehydration, fatigue) and gastrointestinal symptoms (i.e. loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea) in pregnant women, newborns, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems. Reproductive health concerns include miscarriage and fetal abnormalities.

Risks: Transmission occurs through contact with contaminated surfaces and objects as well as through the ingestion of contaminated food. The greatest risk of exposure to *L. monocytogenes* is during cage changes where there is contact with contaminated bedding and cages.

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. Pregnant women should take special caution to avoid contact with infected material.

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.