

## ***Staphylococcus aureus***

**Hazards:** *Staphylococcus aureus* is bacterial pathogen associated with symptoms that may include the rapid onset of nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, cramps, and diarrhea if ingested. Other symptoms may include local skin infections, tenderness, mild fever, blisters, or a general skin rash after an animal bite.

**Risks:** Transmission occurs through a bite from an infected animal or through eating contaminated food. In an animal facility, the risk of exposure to these bacteria 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.