

## ***Toxoplasma gondii***

**Hazards:** *Toxoplasma gondii* is a parasite not typically associated with disease in healthy adults but can cause severe disease in immunocompromised people.

Symptoms may include fever, rash, headache, swollen lymph nodes, enlarged organs, weight loss, weakness, pneumonia, and achy muscles.

**Risks:** Transmission occurs through consumption of contaminated food and water as well as through the inhalation of aerosols containing infectious particles. The greatest risk of exposure to *T. gondii* 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.

**Emergency Response:** In the event of an exposure, 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.