

INSTRUCTIONS

All personnel exposed to animals for their work on USC campuses must enroll in the USC Occupational Medicine Program. USC employees, contractors, vendors, and others who do not handle animals but may enter animal facilities must read and understand the information on this form, and sign the acknowledgment statement below before entering animal facilities. Submission of this form to EH&S constitutes enrollment in the USC Occupational Medicine Program for those who do not handle animals.

If you have allergies or other sensitivities you would like to address, please complete the Animal Exposure Risk Assessment (ARA) Form instead, available here: <http://tiny.cc/usc-occ-med>.

INFORMATION ON WORKING AROUND ANIMALS

The following **hazards** are associated with animals:

1. **Physical injuries** (i.e., animal bites, scratches or kicks, lifting heavy animals, cages, equipment)
2. **Zoonotic diseases** transmissible from animal to human. These diseases are uncommon in laboratory animals and the Animal Resources Veterinary Care Program has measures in place to prevent transmission. Risks are further reduced by use of personal protective equipment such as lab coats, gloves, safety glasses and respirators while handling animals and equipment.
3. **Allergies** associated with exposure to contact or respiratory allergens, such as animal dander or urine.
Note: Of these hazards, allergies are the only risk for individuals who do not directly handle animals or enter animal facilities. Even outside the animal holding rooms, allergens are frequently airborne or adhere to surfaces such as hallway walls.

Animal allergies - Development of allergies is the most common hazard for personnel who work with research animals. Allergies can develop to a single animal species or to multiple species, and can even begin after long-term exposure. Once a person develops an allergy and is then exposed to the allergen, a variety of symptoms can arise within minutes of exposure. Symptoms can include:

- Runny nose
- Itchy, watery eyes
- Asthma or other respiratory symptoms
- Sneezing and coughing
- Skin reactions (reddening)

The most common allergies in laboratory animal handlers develop from continued exposure to protein allergens commonly found in bedding, cages, and residual dust particles. People who develop allergic symptoms should seek medical counseling, and may need to wear special protective equipment or even discontinue working with the species if severe symptoms occur when exposed.

Your risk of developing animal allergies is low since you do not handle animals. However, when you enter an animal facility:

1. Do not handle or touch animals. If your job responsibility includes touching animals, speak to your supervisor.
2. Follow all instructions posted at the entry door about personal protective equipment.
3. If you experience symptoms listed above within minutes of entering, notify your supervisor immediately. If you need medical attention, go to <http://tiny.cc/usc-injury> for more information.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By completing the section below, you acknowledge that you have read and understood the information provided above. By completing this form and sending it to EH&S, you acknowledge that you are enrolled in the USC Occupational Medicine Program.

Name (Print Clearly)	USC ID Number (if you have one)	Signature
Date	Mobile/Work Phone Number	Email Address

Submit completed form to the EH&S Biosafety Officer via:

- **Email** biosafety@usc.edu
- **Fax** 323-442-2001
- **Campus mail** EH&S Biosafety Officer, 2001 N. Soto-SBA #329

For emergencies and after-hour concerns, contact the Department of Public Safety at 213-740-4321 (UPC) or 323-442-1000 (HSC).