

University of Pittsburgh Safety Manual	EH&S Guideline Number: 05-025	
Subject: VISITORS TO ANIMAL FACILITIES	Effective Date: 07/14/2021 Review Date: 03/18/2022	Page 1 of 4

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP) Visitors to Animal Research Facilities

1. Scope

The University of Pittsburgh has established programs and guidelines for all faculty, and staff that work in animal facilities. There are specific requirements applicable to each animal facility established by the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR) or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). For instructions regarding DLAR/IACUC approval required to bring a visitor into an animal facility refer to the IACUC “Training of Visitors to Animal Use Areas Policy” (<https://www.iacuc2.pitt.edu/sop/restricted/TrainingVisitors.pdf>). The following guidelines are intended to provide the basis for the *occupational and environmental health requirements* for visitors entering animal facilities at the University of Pittsburgh.

Additional procedural guidance regarding academic visitors to the University of Pittsburgh is available at <https://visitor.pitt.edu/>.

2. EMPLOYEE/VISITORS AT RISK

2.1 This SOP shall apply to all persons/visitors who enter the animal facility. Two categories for visitors are established below. A visitor is any individual that is not a University of Pittsburgh faculty, staff or student with authorization from DLAR to enter a specific animal facility.

2.1.1 **Visitor with Prolonged Exposure** – A person who enters the facility with an escort **4 times or more within 30 days** and does not have direct contact with an animal on any entry. Individuals who have direct contact with an animal on any entry must be listed on an IACUC protocol and complete all pertinent University medical surveillance and training requirements.

2.1.2 **Visitor with Minimal/Limited Exposure** – A person who enters the facility with an escort **3 times or less within 30 days** and does not have direct contact with an animal on any entry. Individuals who have direct contact with an animal on any entry must be listed on an IACUC protocol and complete all pertinent University medical surveillance and training requirements.

3. PROCEDURES FOR VISITOR WITH PROLONGED EXPOSURE

3.1 All Visitors with Prolonged Exposure shall complete a minimum of:

3.1.1 **Animal Exposure Surveillance Program (AESP)**. Enrollment is mandatory for visitors with prolonged exposure. Forms can be found: www.ehs.pitt.edu/biological/animal.html.

3.1.1.1 Full questionnaires should be filled out for initial enrollment.

University of Pittsburgh Safety Manual	EH&S Guideline Number: 05-025	
Subject: VISITORS TO ANIMAL FACILITIES	Effective Date: 07/14/2021 Review Date: 03/18/2022	Page 2 of 4

3.1.1.2 Once the questionnaire has been completed, e-mail the completed questionnaire to Employee Health Services (myhealthatworkpitt@upmc.edu). The form may also be given to the Clinic worker at the time of the assessment in Employee Health.

3.2 **Bloodborne Pathogen Training (BBP)** shall be completed within the previous 12 months if visiting any rooms of an animal facility potentially containing agents or material described below. The training may be completed on-line: <http://cme.hs.pitt.edu/>, or documentation of equivalent training may be submitted to EH&S for approval.

3.2.1 Requiring ABSL-2 containment or higher; or

3.2.2 Having potential exposure to human blood, tissue, body fluids, primary cells, cell lines; or

3.2.3 Having potential exposure to non-human primates or non-human primate blood, tissue, body fluids, primary cells, cell lines.

3.3 If work will involve entering facilities for non-human primates (NHP), **Tuberculosis Monitoring** within the previous six months. The required testing consists of a Tuberculin Skin Test (TST), also known as a purified protein derivative (PPD) skin test, results of a Quantiferon TB screening, or completion of a medical evaluation questionnaire for known skin-test positive individuals. Contact Employee Health (412-647-4949) directly with questions. If results are read at a location other than Employee Health Services please send the results to Employee Health Services (myhealthatworkpitt@upmc.edu).

4. PROCEDURES FOR VISITORS WITH MINIMAL/LIMITED EXPOSURE

4.1 All individuals who enter an animal facility 3 times or less within 30 days with an escort, have no direct contact with animals, and therefore are not required to be listed on an IACUC ARO protocol shall complete a minimum of:

4.1.1 **Bloodborne Pathogen Training (BBP)** shall be completed within the previous 12 months if visiting any rooms of an animal facility containing agents or material described below. The training may be completed on-line: <http://cme.hs.pitt.edu/> or documentation of equivalent training may be submitted to EH&S for approval.

4.1.1.1 Requiring ABSL-2 containment or higher,

University of Pittsburgh Safety Manual	EH&S Guideline Number: 05-025	
Subject: VISITORS TO ANIMAL FACILITIES	Effective Date: 07/14/2021 Review Date: 03/18/2022	Page 3 of 4

4.1.1.2 Having potential exposure to human blood, tissue, body fluids, primary cells, cell lines

4.1.1.3 Having potential exposure to non-human primates or non-human primate blood, tissue, body fluids, primary cells, cell lines.

4.1.2 If work will involve entering facilities for non-human primates (NHP), **Tuberculosis Monitoring** within the previous six months. The required testing consists of a Tuberculin Skin Test (TST), also known as a purified protein derivative (PPD) skin test, results of a Quantifereon TB screening, or completion of a medical evaluation questionnaire for known skin-test positive individuals. Contact Employee Health (412-647-4949) directly with questions. If results are read at a location other than Employee Health Services please send the results to Employee Health Services, (myhealthatworkpitt@upmc.edu).

5. RISK COMMUNICATION FOR ALL VISITORS

5.1 ALL Visitors shall be given information regarding animal allergies **prior to entry**. Visitors self-identifying any possible health effects from potential exposure to animals, caging, animal wastes or animal bedding should be referred to Employee Health Services for consultation.

5.2 ALL Visitors are required to be advised by their escort to report signs and symptoms of animal allergies or any other perceived health effects to their escort immediately so that appropriate interventions can be implemented.

5.3 For additional information concerning allergies to laboratory animals, please visit: <http://www.bu.edu/roh/p/info/animal/allergies/>.

6. ANIMAL FACILITY VISITORS EXPERIENCING AN INJURY OR POTENTIAL EXPOSURE

6.1 In the event of an animal related injury, immediately wash and rinse the wound with soap and water for 15 minutes. Apply pressure if necessary to control bleeding. If the injury involves mucous membranes (eye, nose and/or mouth), flush with water for 15 minutes at an eyewash station or other potable water source. The visitor should be escorted to the appropriate medical treatment facility.

6.2 In the event of a non-human primate related injury, obtain a non-human primate exposure kit and immediately wash the wound for 15 minutes with the scrub brush provided. Flush and rinse well. For mucous membrane exposures, flush at an eyewash station for 15 minutes. The escort should notify a supervisor and the DLAR veterinary staff as soon as possible. The visitor should be escorted the appropriate medical treatment facility.

University of Pittsburgh Safety Manual	EH&S Guideline Number: 05-025	
Subject: VISITORS TO ANIMAL FACILITIES	Effective Date: 07/14/2021 Review Date: 03/18/2022	Page 4 of 4

- 6.3 Any visitor experiencing allergy symptoms should be escorted for medical evaluation and treatment, if needed.
- 6.4 Visitors that have experienced any animal-related injury or allergy symptoms should be escorted to:
Employee Health Services (*MyHealth@Work*)
Suite 500.59, Medical Arts Building
3708 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
(7 AM – 3:30 PM, Monday-Friday)
Phone: 412-647-4949
- 6.5 Visitors experiencing an animal-related injury requiring urgent care or during non-business hours, should be escorted to:
UPMC Presbyterian Hospital Emergency Department
200 Lothrop Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Phone: 412-647-3333
- 6.6 In the event of a major medical emergency, contact the University Police at 412-624-2121, who will dispatch a University Police Officer and will contact City of Pittsburgh Emergency Medical Services. If the individual is conscious and can be moved, move him/her from the animal facility removing all personal protective equipment. Only individuals who have been trained in lifesaving techniques and are willing to offer their abilities should initiate medical assistance.