

	<h2>Necropsy Safety Policy</h2>	Effective:	June 30, 2006
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		Last Updated:	June 30, 2006
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1. POLICY

1.1 This policy addresses the guidelines that should be followed while performing a necropsy.

2. SCOPE

2.1 The guidelines apply to all faculty, staff, students and visitors to campus.

3. PROCEDURE

Risk of Exposure

These recommended standard operating procedures are intended to mitigate the small but inherent risk of zoonotic infection resulting from ordinary operation of animal necropsy areas. All necropsy employees and students shall become familiar with these guidelines during orientation training and prior to working in a necropsy area.

Employees and students must be aware that [potential accidental exposures can occur through several routes. Inhalation exposures can occur if an aerosol is created and the hazardous biological material is inhaled. Infectious agent can also enter the body through an opening in the skin where there is a cut, open sore, crack, or exposure to the soft tissues around the eyes and lips. Ingestion is possible if infectious agents are on food or drink items. Personal habits such as grooming or wiping your brow present other exposure risks. Therefore, food, drink and personal grooming items are not permitted in necropsy areas. The additional precaution and procedures in this standard operating protocol (SOP) are intended to prevent an infection from these potential routes of exposure.

Animal Necropsy

Each animal submitted for necropsy shall have its history reviewed by the pathologist to access the risk of zoonotic infection by aerosols or direct contact before initiating necropsy procedures. When the animal's history indicates that the case may pose high risk for zoonotic disease (i.e., Q fever, Rabies, Psittacosis, West Nile Virus, Lepto, Spongiform encephalitis, etc) the pathologist shall advise technicians on appropriate protective measures to prevent production of aerosols and other potential routes of exposure.

For external disinfecting of the animal, the carcass shall be made wet with disinfectant prior to necropsy to reduce the risk of airborne infectious particles. If disinfecting to this degree will compromise testing, the carcass shall be made wet with water.

Initial sampling may be needed prior to disinfecting. If the animal is high risk, the tissues should be handled in a trimming vented cabinet, and workers shall wear HEPA filtered masks and surgical gowns in addition to standard precautions. Standard necropsy safety practices are listed below. These practices shall be considered minimal safety precautions, which may be supplemented with additional measures based on animal-specific situations, including animal history and risk assessments conducted by the attending pathologist.

- Small tissues should be handled with forceps and scissors whenever possible to avoid puncture and cut wounds to personnel conducting necropsy procedures.
- During necropsy impervious aprons shall be worn.
- No eating, gum chewing, drinking, grooming, or other activities that are a means of exposure are permitted.
- No exiting from the area and reentering without proper foot disinfection and removal of protective outer garments in the designated change area.
- No minors are allowed in the necropsy area.

Required Personal Protection and Handling Procedures

At a minimum, persons performing and or observing necropsy shall wear lab coats or other suitable outer garments, gloves, impervious boots, and protective eyewear. If indicated by the supervising pathologist, respiratory protection may also be required. If splashes or spills are possible, goggles and full-face shields are required. Respiratory protection will be necessary if there is potential for aerosol generation. Equipment use of electrical band saws or other high velocity equipment (sonicators, homogenizers, blenders, etc.) that may create aerosols shall be avoided in necropsies of animals suspected of being infected with RG 2-3 zoonotic pathogens.

Use of such equipment such as band saws, fork lifts and grinders should be used only by trained and approved personnel. Use of laundry machines is limited to pathology lab only, to reduce the risk of contamination.

Disposal and Disinfection Procedures

Disinfection of the necropsy room begins with the removal of solids (i.e., fats, tissues, etc.). These solids shall be sprayed with a disinfectant and then picked up. If sweeping is involved it must not be so rigorous so as to generate aerosols or visible airborne particulates. After all solids have been removed, the floor should be sprayed with disinfectant. A minimum contact time of 10 minutes is required, followed by a pressurized water rinse. After rinsing, final decontamination is achieved with application of a disinfectant spray. Outerwear shall be surface-decontaminated with application of a disinfectant spray. This should be done after each use and prior to removal from the

necropsy area. If the necropsy involved an animal infected with a zoonotic pathogen, outerwear shall be incinerated or autoclaved then laundered. Requirements for disinfection of clothes and instruments will vary with the resistance of the pathogen involved. Laundry and routine disinfection will be adequate for most agents. Clothing should not be laundered at home or at a Laundromat.

Written procedures shall be developed, implemented, and maintained for specialized equipment such as knives, saws, etc. In addition, routine disinfection of animal delivery areas (e.g., docks, etc.) shall also be implemented. Procedures must be readily available to all employees.

Accident Response

Any and all cuts, sounds, or splash events to mucous membranes that might occur in necropsy shall be reported to the attending pathologist. There is a first aid station in the necropsy room. Serious events or injuries posing risk of infection will be referred to local medical facilities for examination and treatment.

An accident/injury report should be filed as soon as possible.