Occupational Health Recommendations for Persons Working with Pigs

All personnel working with animals, their tissues, or working in areas where animals are housed must complete an Animal Use Medical Screening Form every 3 years or more often at the discretion of the Occupational Health Nurse. This is a program to identify and provide follow up for individuals who may be at greater risk for contracting zoonoses. This form can be accessed electronically at: http://www.ehs.washington.edu/rbs/resocchealth.shtm

1. Tetanus booster should be obtained every 10 years.

2. Protective gloves should be worn when handling pigs. A Lab jacket or some type of protective outerwear should be worn to protect clothing. Hands should be thoroughly washed upon completion of tasks with the animal/glove removal.

3. **Zoonotic Disease potentials**: see the attached zoonotic diseases from pigs information sheet.

4. **Injuries**: Immediately wash area thoroughly with soap and water for at least 15 minutes. Control any bleeding and cover with protective dressing (bandage, etc.). For any injuries, needlestick/sharps injury or for signs/symptoms of wound infection such as redness, swelling or pain, contact the Employee Health Clinic at Hall Health at 685-1026. After hours or if the clinic is unavailable, go to the UWMC ER. Report injuries on the UW Online Accident Reporting System (OARS) accessed via http://www.ehs.washington.edu/ohsoars/index.shtm

5. **Illness**: If you develop signs or symptoms that you think may be related to your work with pigs and/or research work, contact the Employee Health Clinic at 685-1026. If you see your own provider, inform him/her that you work with pigs and any other pertinent information regarding your research work.

6. **Allergies**: One documented case of asthma symptoms from a urinary protein in pigs. If you experience suspected allergy symptoms, such as, runny nose and sneezing (allergic rhinitis), irritation and tearing of eyes (allergic conjunctivitis), asthma or skin rash (atopic dermatitis), contact the Employee Health Clinic at 685-1026. Precautions and methods of control to prevent exposure to animal allergenic substances can be found in the NIOSH ALERT, "Preventing Asthma in Animal Handlers". This document can be downloaded at http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/97-116/ to be reviewed with personnel.

The Employee Health Clinic is located on the ground floor at the Hall Health Building. (206) 685-1026