



Policy: Minimizing the Risk of Disease Transmission from Human to Nonhuman Primates

Background

Nonhuman primates (NHP) are susceptible to many human diseases. Employee Health Clinic located in Hall Health provides tuberculosis and measles clearances for the WaNPRC.

Implementation Plan

All persons with current access as of December 30, 2016 must complete measles and tuberculosis clearance by March 31, 2017; or their access to the WaNPRC will be suspended. Anyone needing access in the future will be required to complete measles and tuberculosis clearances before receiving access.

Policies

1. Tuberculosis Policy Summary

The following policy provides information on the tuberculosis status requirements for all personnel that require access to Washington National Primate Research Center (WaNPRC). This policy is designed to establish a system of information and safeguards to prevent and control the spread of tuberculosis infection within the WaNPRC nonhuman primate colonies.

To whom does this Policy apply?

All WaNPRC employees. It also applies to all Academic Staff, Classified Staff, Professional Staff, Faculty, Students, Visitors, Volunteers, and Student Hourly employees authorized to enter WaNPRC facilities on campus as well as leased facilities.

Rationale

Tuberculosis is a disease that is transmissible between humans and nonhuman primates (NHP). A tuberculosis infection in NHP is a direct result of exposure to infected humans or exposure to other NHPs infected by humans.

Updated 2/9/17

It is imperative that all personnel who gain access to the WaNPRC is enrolled in an initial and annual TB surveillance program.

Policy Detail

There are two tests used to help detect TB infection: a skin test or TB blood test. The Mantoux tuberculin skin test (TST) is performed by injecting a small amount of fluid (called tuberculin) into the skin in the lower part of the arm. A person given the TST must return within 48 to 72 hours to have a trained health care worker look for a reaction on the arm. The TB blood tests measure how the patient's immune system reacts to the germs that cause TB. A two-step Mantoux tuberculin skin test is commonly used as the initial screening at the WaNPRC. Two-step testing is useful for the initial skin testing of persons who are going to be retested periodically. This two-step approach can reduce the likelihood that a boosted reaction to a subsequent TST will be misinterpreted as a recent infection.

Those persons with documented past history of positive TST are not re-skin tested but are evaluated for clearance of active tuberculosis. This evaluation could include blood tests or chest x-rays as deemed necessary by the healthcare professional.

Persons with a history of an attenuated live vaccine (BCG) vaccination will receive a TST unless they have documentation of a history of positive TST.

As a surveillance procedure, all persons with a history of negative skin test are re-tested every 12 months.

All others are evaluated annually by Employee Health Clinic healthcare professional to assure that they do not have active tuberculosis. This evaluation could include blood tests, TB symptom survey, or chest x-rays as deemed necessary by the healthcare professional.

2. Measles Policy Summary

The following policy provides information on the measles immunity status requirements for all personnel that require access to Washington National Primate Research Center(WaNPRC). This policy is designed to establish a system of information and safeguards to prevent and control the spread of measles infection within the WaNPRC nonhuman primate colonies.

To whom does this Policy apply?

All WaNPRC employees. It also applies to all Academic Staff, Classified Staff, Professional Staff, Faculty, Students, Visitors, Volunteers, and Student Hourly employees authorized to enter WaNPRC facilities on campus as well as leased facilities.

Updated 2/9/17

Rationale

Measles, or rubeola, is a disease that is transmissible between humans and nonhuman primates (NHP) and has been categorized as one of the most contagious human pathogens. A measles infection in NHP is a direct result of exposure to infected humans or exposure to other NHP that have been infected by humans. Old World monkeys, such as macaques, infected with measles commonly present with a continuum of clinical signs including anorexia, depression, respiratory distress, conjunctivitis, cutaneous rash, enteritis, and even death. Measles virus induced immunosuppression in both Old and New World monkeys can also make them susceptible to infection with other viruses, bacteria, and fungi, which can result in their death.

It is imperative that all personnel accessing the WaNPRC provide documentation or laboratory evidence to Employee Health confirming immunity to measles as determined by a qualified medical professional.

Policy Detail

Individuals requiring access to the WaNPRC will be required to provide written documentation to UW Employee Health showing one of the following:

- Receipt of two doses of live measles or MMR vaccine on or after one year of age, given at least 28 days apart
- Laboratory evidence of immunity to measles
- Laboratory confirmation of measles disease

Individuals without the above documentation may obtain blood titer, or vaccination at UW Employee Health, or from their health care provider.

UW Employee Health will provide a medical clearance form to the WaNPRC Occupational Health and Biosafety Coordinator once immunity has been confirmed.

Employee Health will contact individuals with a negative antibody test result. A required series of two MMR vaccines is given four weeks apart. Work with NHP can only begin 14 days after the first vaccine in the series administered. If the individual does not complete the second immunization within the required timeframe, they will be need to be restricted from animal work. If a person lacks serologic evidence of protection to measles and refuses immunization, or if the employee cannot receive the vaccine due to a medical contraindication, Employee Health will inform the WaNPRC Occupational Health and Biosafety Coordinator that the worker is not cleared to enter the animal facility.

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