



National Institutes of Health
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To: Dr. Michael M. Gottesman, Deputy Director for Intramural Research /
Institutional Official
Office of Intramural Research, OD

Dr. Terri Clark, Director
Office of Animal Care and Use, OIR, OD

From: Director
Division of Occupational Health and Safety (DOHS), ORS

Subject: Medical Clearance of Transient Visitors into NIH Animal Facilities

Transient visitors to NIH animal facilities are not required to participate in the NIH Animal Exposure Program (AEP), because they have no direct contact with animals, their viable tissues, body fluids, wastes, or living quarters.

A transient visitor is defined as anyone who is required to enter into an animal room, but not have direct contact with animals. Transient visitors include, but are not restricted to: federal employees and contractors; maintenance and construction workers, and members of the general public.

- All transient visitors to NIH animal facilities must be accompanied and supervised by an NIH employee trained in the safe entry into animal rooms.
- Transient visitors who enter an occupied animal room are required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Appropriate PPE for entry into animal rooms where infectious agents may be in use, must meet the requirements specified in the CDC/NIH publication, *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories*. Transient visitors to NIH non-human primate (NHP) animal facilities must wear a single-use dust-mist mask and other PPE, as outlined in the NIH Policy Manual Chapter 3044-2, *Protection of NIH Personnel Who Work with Nonhuman Primates*.
- Prior to the entry of transient visitors into animal rooms to conduct significant facility construction, renovation or maintenance: 1) the animals must be removed from the immediate area; 2) the area must be cleaned and disinfected; and 3) the visiting personnel must be informed of any potential hazards and appropriate protective procedures, including required PPE.

The decision on whether medical testing is required for transient visitor entry into a NHP animal room rests with the facility Animal Program Director, since this is an animal health issue designed to protect the NHP colony's health status and is not an occupational health issue under the purview of the DOHS. Transient visitors should check with the animal facility management to learn the facility's specific medical testing requirements.

If you have any questions or comments regarding these issues, please contact me at 301-496-2960.

Deborah E. Wilson, DrPH

cc: Dr. James Schmitt, Medical Director, OMS