

**The following guidelines have been established for individuals working with Non-laboratory, high-risk, mammal collection (primarily bats):**

- You must have a current Tetanus/diphtheria (Td) vaccination: (one that can be documented within last 10 years).
  - It is highly recommended that you receive a Td booster if you experience a significant injury and your vaccination was administered more than 5 years previous.
  - It is highly recommended that you receive a Td booster if you have not been vaccinated within the last 10 years.
- A Respiratory Protection Program is available for any employees/students working in dusty (feeds, hay, dried animal waste, etc.) environments requiring a half face or full-face respirator for respiratory protection. All employees and students working in these environments must enroll in the University's Respiratory Protection program (TTU OP 60.05). Visitors should be warned of the nature of the dusts (allergies, ocular/nasal irritation), and exposure limited by short duration in the area for touring purposes only.
  - This program includes medical examinations with a yearly physician's statement of medical qualification to wear a respirator.
- Yearly respirator fit testing is required for half or full-face respirators, and will be performed by TTU-EH&S. All employees and students who travel to foreign countries for purposes of collecting, trapping, and/or obtaining samples from animals:
  - Must seek information regarding pre-travel immunizations and/or chemoprophylaxis to prevent endemic diseases. These employees are required to discuss their health status and planned foreign travel with an occupational health professional.
- Rabies Vaccinations (IACUC Policy 23)
  - Pre-Exposure: All employees and students on an approved TTU IACUC protocol who handle, trap and/or obtain samples from live mammal species known to be zoonotic carriers of rabies (bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes, dogs, cats, and ferrets), which do not have a documented rabies vaccine must utilize pre-exposure rabies vaccination available through the Occupational Health Program. Pre-exposure vaccination is not required if exposure to animal bites can be physically mitigated using personal protective equipment or

engineered controls (e.g., muzzles). Costs for this vaccination will be split equally between the employee or employee's department and the Occupational Health Program. Only individuals that have a documented antibody titer within the last two years will be considered vaccinated under this guideline.

Volunteers and students not on an approved protocol who handle, trap and/or obtain samples from live mammal species known to be zoonotic carriers of rabies and cannot physically mitigate exposure to animal bites using personal protective equipment or engineered controls that prevent a bite must be vaccinated for rabies and provide proof of effective immunologic titer at their own cost. Vaccinations for rabies will follow the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

- All employees and students who travel to foreign countries for purposes of collecting, trapping, and/or obtaining samples from live animal should seek information regarding pre-travel immunizations and/or chemoprophylaxis to prevent endemic diseases. These employees are encouraged to discuss their health status and planned foreign travel with an occupational health professional. This will include pre-exposure rabies immunization if work is to be conducted with mammals known to be zoonotic carriers of the disease in areas with endemic disease.
- All employees and students should be aware of the potential physical risks associated with working the particular species they will be working with. The risks may include, but are not limited to, bites and scratches.
- All employees and students should be properly trained in trapping and handling techniques with the particular species with which they will be working. For appropriate training, please contact your supervisor.

All employees and students will be informed of the potential zoonoses associated with the particular species with which they will be working.