

Reported Occupationally Acquired Infections

Laboratory Rodents (Mice, Rats, Rabbits, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs) Zoonoses

Disease	Species	Causative Organism	Probable Means of Spread to Man	Prevention
Dermatophytosis (Ringworm)	Mice, rabbits, guinea pigs	<i>Microsporum</i> , <i>Trichophyton</i>	Contact with animal hair and dander	Good hygienic practices, especially handwashing; clean and disinfect tools or instruments used on animals; practice good sanitation
Legionellosis	Guinea pigs	<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>	Aerosol or droplet exposure during animal challenge.	Wear appropriate PPE when handling animals or changing bedding. Good hygienic practices.
Leptospirosis	Rabbits, rats, mice, guinea pigs	<i>Leptospira interrogans</i>	Contact with experimentally and naturally infected animals.	Wear appropriate PPE when handling animals or changing bedding. Good hygienic practices.
Listeriosis	Mice, guinea pigs	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Ingestion of organism from experimentally infected animals.	Wear appropriate PPE when handling animals or changing bedding. Good hygienic practices.
Lymphocytic choriomeningitis	Mice, hamsters, guinea pigs	<i>Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus</i>	Rodent urine/saliva; excretions and secretions	Good hygienic practices, especially handwashing; protect cuts and wounds from contact with animals; good housekeeping practices including keeping the cage and bedding clean, keep food in closed containers and dispose of dead animals properly
Rat bite fever	rats	<i>Streptobacillus moniliformis</i> , <i>Spirillum minus</i>	Bites of rodents; wounds	Control rats; protect against occupational associated rat bites; wash and disinfect wounds promptly
Salmonellosis	Mice, rats	<i>Salmonella spp.</i>	Contact with experimentally and naturally infected animals.	Wear appropriate PPE when handling animals or changing bedding. Good hygienic practices.
Shigellosis	Guinea pigs, rats, mice	<i>Shigella spp.</i>	Contact with experimentally infected animals.	Wear appropriate PPE when handling animals or changing bedding. Good hygienic practices.
Sporothricosis	rats	<i>Sporothrix schenckii</i>	Bite from an experimentally infected animal.	Control rats; protect against occupational associated rat bites; wash and disinfect wounds promptly
Tularemia	rabbits	<i>Francisella tularensis</i>	Contact with experimentally infected animals or ectoparasites	Rare for commercial laboratory rabbits to be infected. Eliminate ectoparasites and wear appropriate PPE if handling tissues.

Physical hazards:

Animal induced injuries such as bites or scratches. May also include exposure to allergens, such as animal dander and fecal material.