

UCR Animal Researchers Occupational Health Guidance for Researchers

Essential Resources for Principal Investigators, Lab Managers, and Research Personnel

Mandatory Lab Safety and Injury Reporting Requirements

Under Cal/OSHA Title 8 §3203 (IIPP), all PIs and supervisors must ensure:

- Safe work practices are communicated effectively
- Employees are informed of how to report an animal bite, needlestick injury, or other occupational exposure
- All researchers know their right to report a work-related injury or exposure and receive medical treatment at no cost

Reporting an Injury or Animal Bite:

Researchers must be informed that they are protected from retaliation when reporting injuries per §3203(a)(5) and Labor Code §5401.

If an animal bite or injury occurs, follow the official UCR protocol here: [Animal Bite Procedures – UCR IACUC](#)

[Injury Reporting Form](#)

Key steps include:

- Immediately wash the wound with soap and water.
- Notify your PI or supervisor.
- Seek medical attention from an approved provider listed on the UCR Workers' Compensation page.
- Complete an Injury Report Form and submit it to Risk Management.
- Contact Occupational Health for follow-up evaluation or vaccination (e.g., tetanus, rabies).

Medical Treatment & Workers' Compensation

[UCR Workers' Compensation Portal](#)

[Injury Reporting Form](#)

[Medical Treatment Facilities Guide](#)

[Undergraduate Student Employees](#)

- Report your injury to your supervisor and complete the steps above (or go to [Employee Injuries](#)).

- **Visiting Faculty, Registered Volunteers and Student Employee**
Responsibilities: It is important for everyone to notify and communicate with their supervisor prior to going to the doctor or physical therapy appointments and keep their supervisors informed of the status of their injury.
- [Undergraduate Students \(Non Employee\)](#) All students should visit [Student Health Services](#) for assistance.

Isoflurane and Hazardous Gas Safety

Researchers working with anesthetic gases (e.g., Isoflurane) must follow established safety protocols:

[Isoflurane Safety Guidelines – EH&S](#)

[Workplace Hazard Update - Isoflurane Gas](#)

Lab-Specific Safety Training

All research personnel must receive site-specific training before starting lab work.

[UCR Lab Site-Specific Training Checklist](#)

Summary of PI Responsibilities

Requirement	Regulation	PI Responsibility
Communicate safe work practices	§3203(a)(4)	Include in lab training & documentation
Ensure injury reporting is understood	§3203(a)(3), (a)(5)	Provide instructions during onboarding
Inform about free occupational health care	§3203(a)(6), Labor Code §5401	Share medical treatment options clearly

UCR Researcher Safety Compliance Overview

Researcher Safety Compliance: Animal Exposure & Bloodborne Pathogens

Resources:

- [Animal Occupational Health Program \(AOHP\)](#)
- Zoonotic risk awareness is addressed in the CITI training and will also be reinforced through forthcoming guidance from EH&S. In the meantime, you may find the [UC Davis Zoonotic Disease](#) resource helpful.

Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) Exposure Control

Training & Policies:

- [UCR BBP Exposure Control Plan](#)
- [UCR Learning Center – BBP Training](#)
- [Hepatitis B Vaccine Information – EH&S](#)
- HBV Declination Form is completed during the BBP training

Employees with exposure risk must:

- Complete BBP training before beginning work
- Renew training annually
- Be offered the Hepatitis B vaccine at no cost
- Complete a declination form if the immunization is refused

Post-Exposure Protocol (PEP)

1. Wash exposed area with soap and water
2. Notify supervisor
3. Submit a Report of Injury
4. Contact Occupational Health for evaluation

Contact

UCR Occupational Health Program

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