UC RIVERSIDE
Occupational Health

Post-Exposure Plan for Mycobacterium marinum

Background

M. marinum is found in soil, water, and biofilms, and causes skin and soft tissue infections. It enters through cuts or abrasions, often from fish tanks or aquatic environments. No person-to-person transmission has been reported.

Laboratory Hazards & Controls

- **Routes:** Aerosols, mucous membrane contact, ingestion, contaminated sharps
- **Disinfectants:** 2% alkaline glutaraldehyde, 5% phenol, 1% sodium hypochlorite
- **PPE:** Lab coats, gloves, eye protection and any additional PPE
- **Best Practices:** Review work practices

High-Risk Individuals

- Immunocompromised
- Individuals with open wounds

Immediate Action by Route of Exposure (UCR Protocol)

Needlestick, Animal Bite, or Laceration:
Immediately wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and running water. Do not apply disinfectants or alcohol to broken skin.

Mucous Membranes (Eyes, Nose, Mouth):
If exposure occurs via splash or spray:

- Eyes – Flush with clean water at an eyewash station for 10–15 minutes.
- Mouth – Rinse out thoroughly without swallowing. Repeat rinse if needed.
- Nose – Blow nose gently and wash external area with water if appropriate.

Inhalation:
If potentially contaminated materials were aerosolized:

- Rinse mouth twice with water and spit. Do not swallow.
- Leave the area and report to your supervisor.

After First Aid:

All suspected exposures related to research activities must be reported immediately to UCR's EH&S at 951-827-5528 and to the Campus Biosafety Officer via ehsbiosafety@ucr.edu.

Employees and students should also contact Occupational Health at 951-827-8220 for medical consultation and follow-up.

If exposure involves Mycobacterium marinum, treating medical providers should be informed. The typical incubation period is 14–21 days, and symptomatic individuals should be evaluated and tested accordingly.

For after-hours exposure: nearest urgent care or ER

- Inform provider of possible *M. marinum* exposure (incubation 14–21 days)

Medical Follow-Up & Testing

- Symptomatic individuals may need a culture to confirm infection
- Treatment is based on clinical evaluation and lab confirmation

UCR Reporting Protocol

- Complete Supervisor Incident Report via Work Related injury
- EH&S Incident Report
- Employees Seek Medical Treatment
- Students should also notify or visit **Student Health Services** at **951-827-3031.**

Final Reminders

- All personnel must be trained in relevant biosafety practices
- PIs must ensure all team members understand zoonotic risks and infection signs

References:

- ILAR Journal (1995) 37(4): 159-173
- Thune RL et al., *Annual Review of Fish Diseases* (1993)
- Ostrander GK. *The Laboratory Fish*. Academic Press, 2000
- UC Davis Guidance, Revised 07/2014
- UC Risk and Safety Solutions: https://ehs.ucop.edu/rs

Acknowledgement of Combined Guidance: Care, Use, and Exposure Response for Fish in Research

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have reviewed, understood, and agreed to follow the requirements outlined in the *Combined Guidance: Care, Use, and Exposure Response for Fish in Research*. This includes responsibilities related to animal care, zoonotic disease prevention, and appropriate first aid and exposure reporting procedures.

Name (Print)	Identification*	Signature	Date	Supervisor / Principal Investigator

*Identification: Provide your UCR Student ID, Employee ID, UCR NetID, UCR Email, or Date of Birth.