

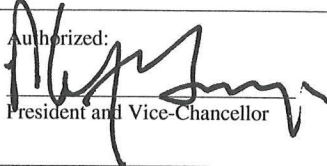


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|  <p>McMaster University Risk Management Manual</p> | <p>RMM 602 Title: Rabies Policy</p> | <p>Date: June, 2008 Page: 1 of 2</p> |
| <p>Submitted: Chair, Presidential Biosafety Advisory Committee</p> | <p>Approved:  Vice President, Administration</p> | <p>Authorized:  President and Vice-Chancellor</p> |

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To set out the policy for immunization against rabies based on the *Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines* published by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The Presidential Biosafety Advisory Committee sets McMaster policy to comply with the Public Health Agency of Canada Guidelines. The Public Health Agency of Canada Biosafety Guidelines apply to human material / subjects or culture of virus.
- 1.2 This policy provides guidance to principal investigators, staff, students and volunteers. Approval must be sought from the Presidential Biosafety Advisory Committee prior to the start of work with material or animals believed to harbor the rabies virus.
- 1.3 Vaccination and maintenance of appropriate titer is considered necessary in order to fulfill the legal obligations of McMaster University.

2 SCOPE

- 2.1 Work under this document must have approval of the Presidential Biosafety Advisory Committee.
- 2.2 This document applies to all individuals associated with McMaster University.

3 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 3.1 *Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines*, Public Health Agency of Canada, 3rd edition, 2004.
- 3.2 Laboratory Centre for Disease Control, Material Safety Data Sheet for rabies.
- 3.3 *Canada Immunization Guide*.
- 3.4 World Health Organization, Rabies.
- 3.5 Addendum to Rabies Policy: Work procedures within the CAF.
- 3.6 *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories*, 5th Edition, CDC.NIH.



4 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 Supervisors have the responsibility to ensure that all persons who work with material which potentially may contain rabies must meet the criteria of this policy.
- 4.2 Supervisors have the responsibility to ensure that documentation is available to guide workers through the procedures.
- 4.3 Workers have the responsibility to work within the procedures as set out by their supervisors.
- 4.4 Supervisors and Human Resources are to ensure that all job descriptions are modified to reflect the rabies policy.
- 4.5 The Presidential Biosafety Advisory Committee has the responsibility to review the documentation presented and provide guidance based on the *Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines*.

5 PROCEDURES

- 5.1 All handlers of live animals known to be potential carriers of rabies, including individuals performing surgery or harvesting tissues, are to be immunized against rabies and their titers are to be maintained at a level as outlined by the W.H.O. Standards prior to working.
- 5.2 Waivers are unacceptable.
- 5.3 Principal Investigators will fund the cost of vaccine and the University will bear the cost of subsequent titers.

6 RECORDS

- 6.1 Records for the Presidential Biosafety Advisory Committee will be maintained by the FHSc. Safety Office, HSC 3N1C.
- 6.2 Records for staff should be maintained by supervisors to meet due diligence requirements.