

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY - LABORATORY ANIMALS



**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
FOR LABORATORY ANIMAL FACILITY
EMPLOYEES AND USERS**

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**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION
FOR MSU PERSONNEL IN
CONTACT WITH VERTEBRATE ANIMALS**

INTRODUCTION

The Occupational Health and Safety Program (OHSP) is an important component of Mississippi State University's institutional animal care and use program. This program is designed to protect both MSU's personnel and the animals.

The occupational health program for animal care personnel or persons using animals is provided by the Office for Regulatory Compliance (ORC) and the John C. Longest Student Health Center (SHC). The program is announced in training sessions, is offered (and accepted or declined) in a Health Evaluation form, and is announced in periodic mailings from the ORC. The laboratory animal veterinarians and SHC personnel monitor the program.

ENROLLMENT AND PROCEDURES

All personnel working with or around vertebrate animals at MSU are required to enroll in the OHSP at the website given below. Once basic information (name, contact information, physician) is provided, the user may then choose to provide medical information for assessment by a physician.

Information is available at: <http://www.orc.msstate.edu/animals/ohsp.php>.

Steps

1. If the user is a new employee, the Occupational Health Evaluation forms on line must be completed before acquiring animal related duties.
2. Additionally, it is your responsibility to update this information when one of the following occurs:
 - a. your MSU work assignment changes.
 - b. your personal health status changes.
 - c. your environmental risk conditions change.
 - d. the species you work with changes.

Failure to enroll and/or provide updates may result in suspension of your ability to work on an animal protocol or in an animal facility.

Medical and risk assessment forms are available via an online format on the IACUC website. You can find directions for enrollment and completion of forms above. No "hard copy" paper OHSP forms will be accepted.

If you have questions about the process, please contact the Office of Regulatory Compliance at 662-325-0994.

The SHC will review the health evaluations in conjunction with the risk assessment and make recommendations to the individual. At no time will the medical information be shared with the