Wednesday, August 23, 2017

To: Biosafety Permit holders, Laboratory Supervisors, Associate Deans (Research) for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Science, Engineering, Kinesiology, Arts and Nursing
CC: Biosafety Committee

Salmonella Advisory

This is an advisory regarding lab-acquired infections of Salmonella. Biosafety Permit holders with a known Salmonella inventory are being separately contacted.

What’s the issue?
Officials in the United States are tracking an outbreak of Salmonella infections linked to teaching, clinical and commercial microbiology labs. Individuals who live in the same household as lab personnel have become sick, without even visiting a laboratory. At UCalgary, there are three previously documented cases of lab-acquired Salmonella infections between 2004 and 2011.

What do I need to do?

1. Review your biohazard inventory in BioLogistix to ensure it accurately reflects your current handling and storage of all Salmonella spp. If you do not have Salmonella in your lab, you may ignore the following steps.

2. Review the Salmonella Pathogen Safety Data Sheet and signs and symptoms of infection with lab personnel.

3. Remind all lab personnel to follow the Biohazard Laboratory Safety Rules and enforce the following:
   a. Use proper handwashing techniques after removing gloves and before leaving the lab.
   b. Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), when required; remove PPE before leaving the lab.
   c. Do not eat or drink and do not store food, drinks, and related utensils in the lab.
   d. Do not touch your face, eyes or mouth in the lab.

Thank you for your continued support.

Eoin

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