

Biological Material Risk Notification: Macaque Tissues, Body Fluids and Cells in Basic Research Applications

This document is being included with this macaque-derived materials shipment to assure that you are aware of the Herpes B virus exposure risk associated with these viable biological materials. To ensure your safety, please review this information and consult with your Institutional Biosafety Officer (BSO) or Veterinarian before handling these materials.

Background

Macaque monkeys are sometimes used in research applications. Examples of those commonly used are bonnet (*Macaca radiata*), cynomolgus (*M. fascicularis*) and rhesus (*M. mulatta*) macaques. Macaques are thought to be the natural host for Herpes B virus (aka *Macacine herpesvirus 1*). Herpes B virus is carried asymptotically in macaques but may be fatal if transmitted to humans. Based on studies and recommendations published following a fatal exposure incident in 1997, ALL macaques (and their viable fluids and tissues) should be regarded as potentially infected with Herpes B virus. Herpes B virus exposure risk is generally recognized by those who work with live macaques. However, it is equally important for individuals handling biologically active macaque body fluids, cells and tissues to be aware that they, too, are at risk of exposure.

Herpes B Virus Exposure Risk Defined ([excerpts from Centers for Disease Control's \(CDC\) B Virus website](#))

B virus infection in humans usually occurs as a result of bites or scratches from macaques—a genus of Old World monkeys that serve as the natural host—or from direct or indirect contact of broken skin or mucous membranes with infected monkey tissues or fluids. The virus can be present in the saliva, feces, urine, or nervous tissue of infected monkeys and may be found in cell cultures derived from infected monkeys.

Infection with B virus is extremely rare in humans. When it does occur, the infection can result in severe brain damage or death if the patient is not treated soon after exposure.

Herpes B Virus Exposure Control

Based on current CDC guidelines, lab activities involving ALL biologically active non-human primate-derived body fluids, cells and tissues (regardless of species origin) should be carried out using BSL-2 containment procedures at a minimum. Furthermore, to be consistent with recommendations that are routinely followed for live animal research, personnel should receive specific training regarding Herpes B virus exposure prevention as outlined in [Recommendations for Prevention of and Therapy for Exposure to B Virus \(Cercopithecine Herpesvirus 1\)](#).

If you have questions regarding this materials shipment or communication, please contact one of the following:

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