SCOPE: To describe response procedures to human injury or exposure involving nonhuman primates (NHPs) or NHP blood, tissues, or body fluids.

I. EXPOSURE PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS

A. Only properly trained individuals are permitted to handle, restrain, and perform procedures that require direct contact with NHPs or their tissues or body fluids.

B. Personal protective equipment based on risk assessment by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) must be worn and utilized whenever individuals enter NHP housing areas or handle equipment, material, or supplies that have come in contact with NHPs.

C. NHP Exposure Kits are provided and maintained by EH&S and are located within NHP housing and procedure areas.

   1. The DLAR facility supervisor can request new or additional kits at any time.

D. DLAR personnel are provided a wallet sized instructional card entitled “Attention Emergency Department Personnel” that outlines the basic response steps and medical direction for physicians and medical personnel that may be unfamiliar with NHP injury or exposure response procedures.

II. NHP INJURY OR EXPOSURE RESPONSE PROCEDURES

A. The procedures described below are detailed in the EH&S SOP entitled Injuries Associated With Non-Human Primates posted on the EH&S website.

   1. Locate and open a NHP Exposure Kit.

      a. Wash the wound immediately and continuously for 15 minutes with the scrub brush provided in the NHP Exposure Kit. Flush and rinse the wound well.

      b. For mucous membrane exposure (eye, nose, or mouth), continuously flush the mucous membrane area for 15 minutes using the eyewash station.

   2. Notify your supervisor and the DLAR facility veterinarian as soon as possible, but do not delay your trip to Employee Health Services or the Emergency Room if you cannot notify your supervisor or facility veterinarian in a timely manner.

      a. Inform the veterinary staff which NHP(s) were involved in the injury or exposure.

   3. During clinic hours proceed immediately to Employee Health Services (Medical Arts Building, Suite 500.59, 3708 Fifth Avenue, phone (412) 647-4949. Clinic hours are Monday to Friday, 7:30 am – 4:00 pm.
a. For injuries occurring during non-clinic hours or for any eye injury, proceed immediately to UPMC Presbyterian Hospital Emergency Department (200 Lothrop Street, phone (412) 647-3333. Take a copy of the appropriate informational handout contained in the NHP Exposure Kit with you to the emergency room.

b. If the injury is life threatening or if the individual requires emergency medical transportation, call campus police at (412) 624-2121 on the Oakland Campus, or dial 911 off campus for medical transport.

4. After evaluation by medical professionals is completed, call 1-800-633-1197 to report a work-related injury (24 hours/day, 7 days/week).

III. MONITORING OF NHPs INVOLVED WITH THE INJURY OR EXPOSURE

A. A DLAR veterinarian provides direction and oversight of the following procedures for all NHPs involved with the injury or exposure incident.

1. Within 4 hours of the reported injury or exposure, perform a physical examination on the NHP(s) known or suspected to be involved in the incident.

2. Collect and label a 3-5 ml blood sample in a serum separator tube from each NHP involved in the incident.

   a. Centrifuge the blood to separate the serum. Place 1-2 ml of serum in a cryovial tube. Clearly label all serum samples with the DLAR identification number of the animal, the date of collection, and the word “SERUM”. The identification number on the sample tube must exactly match the submitted paperwork.

3. Collect individual virology swab samples from the buccal mucosa, left eye conjunctiva, right eye conjunctiva, genitalia, and any clinical mucosal lesions present from each involved or suspected NHP.

4. Additional serologic assessment or tissue sample testing of NHPs is made at the discretion of the DLAR veterinarian.

5. Clearly label all samples with the DLAR identification number of the animal, the date of collection, the virology swab collection site, and/or the tissue source.

6. When group housed NHPs are involved and a specific animal cannot be identified for sampling, the DLAR veterinarian will determine which animal(s) and what sample(s) are collected based on the details specific to the exposure.

7. Processed samples are shipped to the appropriate diagnostic laboratory by Veterinary Services personnel.

   a. The diagnostic laboratory must be contacted in advance of shipping if any samples contain other infectious agents.
b. Samples must be shipped by overnight mail or courier service; therefore, samples can only be shipped Mondays through Thursdays. If a sample is obtained on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, the samples must be bagged, stored in a -80°C freezer, and shipped on the following Monday.

8. Schedule a follow-up blood sample collection within 14 to 21 days from the initial blood collection. Sample collection, labeling, processing, and shipping procedures are the same as outlined above.

9. Test results are received by email and standard mail to a designated DLAR veterinarian, and conveyed to the appropriate individuals including the DLAR facility veterinarian, Employee Health Services, and the PI whose animal was involved with the injury or exposure.

10. All physical examinations, diagnostic testing procedures, and test results are recorded in the animal’s clinical veterinary record.