

**Agent Summary– *Influenza Virus A (H3N2, BMBL5)***

1. Precaution

The influenza viruses are enveloped RNA viruses. There are three serotypes of influenza viruses, A, B and C. Influenza A is further classified into subtypes by the surface glycoproteins that possess either hemagglutinin (H) or neuraminidase (N) activity. Emergence of completely new subtypes (antigenic shift) occurs at irregular intervals with Type A viruses.

New subtypes are responsible for pandemics and can result from reassortment of human and avian influenza virus genes. Antigenic changes within a type or subtype (antigenic drift) of A and B viruses are ongoing processes that are responsible for frequent epidemics and regional outbreaks and make the annual reformulation of influenza vaccine necessary.

Influenza viral infections, with different antigenic subtypes, occur naturally in swine, horses, mink, seals, and in many domestic and wild avian species. Interspecies transmission and reassortment of influenza A viruses have been reported to occur among humans and wild and domestic fowl.

Airborne spread is the predominant mode of transmission especially in crowded, enclosed spaces. Transmission may also occur through direct contact since influenza viruses may persist for hours on surfaces particularly in the cold and under conditions of low humidity. The incubation period is from one to three days. Recommendations for treatment and prophylaxis of influenza are available.

- 2. PPE: follow SOP #2.0 donning and doffing procedure
- 3. Lab area : \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Animal holding area : \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Animal procedure area: \_\_\_\_\_