

Agent Summary– *Vaccinia Virus*

([BMBL5](#) and ABSA Alliance with OSHA Zoonotic fact sheet)

1. Precaution

Vaccinia virus, the leading agent of laboratory-acquired poxvirus infections, is used to make the current smallpox vaccine and may occur as a rare zoonosis. Laboratory-acquired infections with standard, mutant, or bioengineered forms of vaccinia virus have occurred, even in previously vaccinated laboratorians.

Vaccinia viruses are stable in a wide range of environmental temperatures and humidity and may be transmitted by fomites. Virus may enter the body through mucous membranes, broken skin, or by ingestion, parenteral inoculation or droplet or fine-particle aerosol inhalation.

Vaccinia virus infection can be transmitted by direct skin contact with lesions on naturally or experimentally infected animals, exposure to aerosols, environmental samples, infectious cultures, or clinical samples, including vesiculopustular rash lesion fluid or crusted scabs, various tissue specimens, excretions and respiratory secretions.

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