

Procedures for Decontamination of Shared Spaces

These procedures are in place to control Pinworms, MPV-1, and EDIM. Strict adherence to these protocols are REQUIRED to continue utilizing shared spaces or to move animals out of quarantined areas. Deviation from this protocol may result in loss of access to animal facilities.

Background

Pinworm eggs are highly resistant to disinfectants and desiccation, with infectious eggs lasting weeks to months in the environment. Pinworm eggs are very sticky and can even be aerosolized. All surfaces that make contact with animals or their cages/bedding, including gloves and equipment, are considered contaminated. The proper use of PPE (and careful removal and disposal of contaminated PPE) and decontamination of supplies and work spaces after contact with infected animals or fomites are both essential to prevent pinworm spread. Any pinworm eggs that remain in the environment pose a major risk for outbreak propagation. **Pinworm eggs are not inactivated with Vimoba, therefore other methods must be used (see below).**

Murine Parvovirus (MPV-1) and mouse Rotavirus, the causative agent of Epizootic Diarrhea of Infant Mice (EDIM), are non-enveloped viruses that are very hardy in the environment. **MPV and EDIM can be inactivated with Vimoba, but contact times of at least 10 minutes are required.**

Personnel

- Personnel must enter non-quarantined rooms first.
- Personnel that enter quarantined rooms must not enter other vivaria that day.
- All items brought into contaminated rooms are considered contaminated and must not be used in any other facilities until after decontamination.
- Personnel handling animals must don the level of PPE required for the animal room.
- **Vimoba** must be used to spray down the **hood surface, outside surfaces of cages, and gloved hands** before and between handling each cage.
- All contaminated PPE must be removed and disposed of before leaving the room.
- Ideally, designate personnel to work specifically in quarantined rooms.

Transporting animals out of quarantined rooms

- Receive an [outbreak management exemption](#) from a veterinarian using our form.
- Adhere to requirement above regarding room order, PPE, and Vimoba use.
- Place the animals into a clean Critter Carrier, or if approved by a vet, a clean cage.
- Leave any used caging inside the quarantined room.
- Follow posted signage to properly remove contaminated PPE while exiting the room. Leave one inner glove layer on one hand for holding the cage.
- DO NOT wear dirty PPE throughout the animal facility. DO NOT use gloved hands to open suite doors or contact any other surfaces outside the quarantined room.
- Transport animals to the approved location.

Animal Work Procedures

- Personnel must wear required PPE while handling animals. Re-don all necessary PPE once the approved location has been reached.
- Spray the work surface of the hood, equipment, and instruments to be used with Vimoba. **A 10-minute contact time is always recommended, and is required if the animals originated from a room under quarantine for MPV or EDIM.**
- We recommend protecting the surface of keyboards, imaging device buttons, anesthesia machine knobs, etc. with plastic wrap (e.g. Glad Press-n-Seal) that can be disposed of and replaced after work is complete. Ideally, have one person handle animals while another person handles keyboards etc. to minimize cross-contamination.
- Spray the entire outside of the cage (all four sides, lid, and bottom) with **Vimoba** and spray gloved hands before handling mice. Open the cage using microisolator technique.
- Conduct your procedures. **Keep the cage closed in between mice whenever possible.**
- **When work is complete, spray all work surfaces and equipment (including bench/counters, tools, anesthesia machine, imaging equipment, etc.) with Vimoba and allow a 10 minute contact time**, then wipe down. *See below re: pinworms.*
- Properly discard all disposable items and used PPE before exiting the space.
- If mice were euthanized, place carcasses inside a biohazard bag and spray with **Vimoba** and wipe the outside of the bag with paper towels wet. Tie the bag and place in an animal carcass freezer. Return any used caging to quarantined room.
- Return animals to the approved housing location, donning proper PPE on entry.

***If animals may be shedding pinworms, ADDITIONAL decontamination of shared spaces is REQUIRED because our routine disinfectant, Vimoba, does NOT kill pinworm eggs:**

- **DISPOSE** of all items that can be discarded.
- **AUTOCLAVE** any equipment that can safely be autoclaved.
- **STEAM** clean, with at least 30 sec contact time, all work surfaces and any equipment that can tolerate steam. We recommend [this steamer](#) which labs should purchase; RAR can also lend steamers for limited periods of time.
- **PROKLEAN** (stabilized hypochlorous acid) is a newly approved disinfectant (EPA, 2025) that inactivates 95% of pinworm eggs after **10 minute contact time** and is non-corrosive. Use this to disinfect all surfaces and equipment that can tolerate it. [Labs should purchase their own supply from VWR](#). **Do not use ProKlean on gloves that are coming into contact with animals as it is not evaluated for this use.**
- **WIPE** down surfaces mechanically, using vigorous unidirectional wiping with clean paper towels, to physically remove pinworm eggs, reducing the burden in the environment. This is a final step and should not be the sole method of decontamination.

**Remember, always use
"DAS PW"**

**Defend Against the
Spread of Pinworms!**

Acknowledgment: I hereby understand the procedures described and will abide by them.

Signature: _____ Name: _____

PI name: _____ Date: _____