

BIOHAZARD

ABSL-2



Agent: Clostridium difficile

Laboratory Hazard: Agent may be present in animal feces and tissues. Since the experimental mode of transmission is by oral administration, the greatest potential mode of transmission is via the fecal-oral route during the administration of the agent, during husbandry, and during the collection of tissues.

Precautions: Biosafety Level 2 containment practices, equipment and facilities. Limited access. Protective clothing is required before entering the room, including a disposable lab coat, shoe covers, and gloves. Eye shielding should be used when there is a risk for splashes. Manipulation of the agent, administration of agent to animals, collection of tissues, and husbandry, are conducted in a biological safety cabinet (BSC). Work surfaces and non-disposable equipment are cleaned and decontaminated with a suitable disinfectant (e.g., Clidox 1:5:1 or 1:10 bleach solution followed by 70% ethanol rinse) after each use. Animals are housed in autoclavable microisolators, soiled microisolators are placed in autoclavable biohazard bags within the BSC, and autoclaved prior to sanitation. Protective clothing is discarded in red biohazard bags located within the room. Hands are washed/sanitized after removing protective clothing, and before leaving the room. Carcasses, tissues, and disposable equipment having been exposed to the agent are disposed of in the proper biohazardous containers and disposed of as biohazardous waste.

Note: C. difficile is a spore forming bacterium which can produce toxins that cause inflammation of the colon. Symptoms of C. difficile infection include nausea, abdominal pain, watery diarrhea, sometimes with blood, fever, and dehydration. Personnel must be familiar with precautions which limit exposure and all procedures as outlined in the SDS. Anyone who suspects they have been potentially exposed to C. difficile must contact their supervisor.