

# BIOHAZARD



**Agent:** *Toxoplasma gondii*

**Laboratory Hazard:** Agent may be present in animal secretions, excretions, and tissues. Since the experimental mode of transmission is by injection or oral administration, the greatest potential hazard is from injury by needle stick, the contamination of broken skin or mucous membranes, ingestion, or aerosols during the administration of agent to animals, 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 protection is recommended when there is a potential for splashes. Manipulation of the agent, administration of agent to animals, the collection of tissues, and husbandry, are conducted in a biological safety cabinet (BSC). Work surfaces, and equipment are decontaminated with a suitable disinfectant (e.g., Clidox 1:5:1, or 1:10 bleach solution followed by 70% ethanol). 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:** *Toxoplasma gondii* is usually non-pathogenic in immunocompetent adults but can be pathogenic in immunocompromised or pregnant individuals. In acute infection symptoms may include fever, rash, headache, lymphadenopathy, weight loss, weakness, pneumonia, and myalgia. Laboratory associated infections have been reported. Personnel must be familiar with precautions which limit exposure and all procedures as outlined in the MSDS. In case of skin contact, skin should be washed thoroughly and immediately with soap. In case of eye exposure, flush eyes using an eye wash station thoroughly for at least 15 minutes. Percutaneous, mucus membrane or non-intact skin exposures should be reported to a supervisor and USF Health Administration immediately.