

<b>SOP Title:</b> Laboratory Maintenance for Positive Diagnostics	<b>SOP #:</b> DX301
<b>Effective Date:</b> April 13, 2021	<b>Revision #:</b> 00
<i>Veterinary Resources   Program in Comparative Medicine</i>	

## 1. PURPOSE

1.1. The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to describe guidelines for investigators when their laboratory's rodent colony is found to be infected at The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB).

1.1.1. This SOP does not apply to findings of suspected infections in sentinel animals. In those cases, colony cages will be tested, as described in SOP AH201, *Sentinel Surveillance*.

## 2. RESPONSIBILITY

2.1. It is the responsibility for all Principal Investigators (PI), animal users, laboratory staff, and Veterinary Resources (VR) staff to follow all procedures as described in this SOP.

## 3. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

3.1. Color-coded stickers – red and yellow

## 4. DEFINITIONS

4.1. IACUC – Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

4.2. IO – Institutional Official

## 5. PROCEDURE

5.1. When a lab has been notified of a positive diagnostic result from its experimental animals:

5.1.1. All procedures in SOP [DX101, Positive Diagnostics Procedure](#) must be followed.

5.1.2. The positive animal housing room is placed under strict isolation status.

5.1.2.1. All cages in the room are considered positive unless they are directly tested and confirmed to be negative.

5.1.2.2. Access to the positive animal room is prohibited other than by VR husbandry and veterinary staff. The PI and members of the PI's lab

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may not handle animals unless authorized, in writing, by the Attending Veterinarian (AV). The AV may permit access after training, and after testing has begun (see below).

- 5.1.2.3. Animals in positive cages may not leave the animal room under any circumstances, unless authorized, in writing, by the AV.
- 5.1.3. Positive cages will be identified by colored stickers throughout the isolation status.
  - 5.1.3.1. Red sticker: Positive result. Cage is not permitted to leave the animal housing room. Lab staff are not permitted in the animal room.
  - 5.1.3.2. Yellow sticker: Positive result. Cage has begun treatment, lab has been trained, lab has been sanitized. Cage is permitted to leave the animal housing room.
- 5.1.4. Laboratories must complete consultation and training with the Program Manager or designee, including biosecurity, sanitation, and proper operating procedures while 'positive'.
  - 5.1.4.1. The PI or designee should immediately contact the Program Manager at [kaspelman@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:kaspelman@som.umaryland.edu) to schedule a face-to-face consultation and training. All laboratory staff and animal users of the positive lab must attend.
    - 5.1.4.1.1. Consultation and training will cover a questionnaire to understand the full research scope and footprint of staff, and sanitation recommendations for the laboratory and procedure space(s). Training will be documented.
    - 5.1.4.1.2. Laboratories will be given an adequate amount of time to appropriately sanitize their laboratory and all its components (floors, surfaces, equipment, tools, experimental devices, computers, etc.).
    - 5.1.4.1.3. Upon sanitation, VR management will return to the laboratory and procedure space(s) to confirm appropriate sanitation has occurred.

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5.1.4.1.3.1. If sanitation is deemed unacceptable/incomplete, the lab will be given additional time to thoroughly sanitize; Access to the animal room will not be granted until complete.

5.1.5. A treatment plan for the animal room will be determined by the AV and carried out following consultation with the PI. The PI may choose to accept recommended treatment and adhere to the isolation policies outlined, or to euthanize the animals; refusing treatment is not an option.

#### 5.1.6. Post-Training Restrictions

5.1.6.1. Upon completion of biosecurity and sanitation training, PI staff will be approved to access the animal room again.

5.1.6.1.1. Isolation status guidelines must still be followed. PI staff may handle animals and cages. However, all contact must be completed in the animal housing room in the biosafety cabinet.

5.1.6.1.2. Animals are still not permitted to leave their housing room until approved by the Program Director and Attending Veterinarian via email communication, after treatment is complete.

5.1.7. Completion of treatment, isolation status, and confirmatory diagnostics will be determined and communicated, in writing, by the AV.

5.1.8. Failure to comply with VR biosecurity guidelines has the potential to affect all rodents at UMB. Noncompliance will be reported to the Program Director and AV. The Program Director or AV will report noncompliance to the IACUC and to the IO as a risk of impacting research results.

## 6. REFERENCES

6.1. AH201, Sentinel Surveillance

6.2. DX101, Positive Diagnostics Procedure

## 7. FORMS AND APPENDICES - N/A

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**8. DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY**

Revision Number	Description of Changes	Effective Date
DX301.00	New document.	04/13/2021