

Information for Immunocompromised Individuals and Pregnancy Women

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Animal care and use personnel with certain health conditions may be at a significantly high risk of acquiring a zoonoses or an infection if he/she has a compromised immune system or is pregnant. There is also an increase risk of complications due to infections for these individuals. Many diseases and treatments may cause a person's immune system to become compromised. Examples include diabetes, lupus, and HIV as well as radiation and chemotherapy treatment for cancer patients. During pregnancy a woman experiences suppression of her immune system. She needs to be aware of possible zoonoses related to her animal exposures. Some zoonoses such as Toxoplasmosis may cause abortion, complications or birth defects.

Individuals with compromised immune systems are strongly encouraged to complete the Animal Care and Use Health Screening Questionnaire and discuss their health status and animal exposures with the Animal Care and Use Program Medical Reviewer, their personal Physician and their supervisor. Additional recommendations may be given to provide extra protection while performing job duties.

