



Macacine Herpes Virus 1 post-exposure
guideline

Created: 5/6/2016

Revised: 5/7/2025

<https://research.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/EHS/Homepage/herpesBPrintAndGo.pdf>

What are print and go sheets?

Following an occupational exposure to the agent identified above, this information sheet identifies the immediate “first aid” actions that should be taken. A medical evaluation should be sought immediately following the exposure. The guidance sheet provides information that medical personnel can reference but does not provide individualized medical care or treatment. This sheet should be printed and taken to the medical provider. Also, display your Columbia University ID card while visiting the medical provider.

Background:

Macacine herpes virus 1 (previously known as herpes virus simiae, herpes B, or B-virus) is a zoonotic agent that, if untreated, can cause fatal encephalomyelitis in humans and can be transmitted by research macaques from a bite, scratch, splash or percutaneous sharps injury. Other NHP species (baboon, marmoset) do not carry the disease.

First aid (begin immediately):

Cleanse the exposed area using the material in the bite kit. Thoroughly wash and scrub the area or wound with soap, concentrated solution of detergent, povidone-iodine, or chlorhexidine and water for 15-20 minutes. Then, irrigate the washed area with running water. If splashed in the eyes, rinse them immediately with water only for 15 minutes using the eyewash station nearest you.

Post-exposure medical surveillance:

Employees and students from the CUIMC, Morningside and Manhattanville campuses go to the Workforce Health and Safety (WHS) clinic located at Harkness Pavilion, first floor room 112, 180 Fort Washington Ave if exposure occurs within the hours that the clinic is in operation (see below). For after-hours exposure or severe injuries, go to the New York Presbyterian Hospital Emergency Room (NYP-ER). Give this sheet to the physician so they understand that you may have just been exposed to Macacine herpes virus 1 (or herpes B virus), and this is a medical emergency. At the ER you will be asked to provide your personal health insurance card, but document on any applicable paperwork that this is a work-related injury. The University's Workers Compensation Insurance company is *PMA Companies*.

What to take with you:

The bite kit contains a set of specimen collection tubes that should be taken to the medical provider. The bite kit also contains an envelope that should be taken to the medical provider. It contains a copy of this Print & Go form, a National B Virus Resource Center test requisition form and a temporary prescription ID card to enable expedient chemoprophylaxis.

Physician information:

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) - The employee should be evaluated for treatment with oral valacyclovir 1 gram 3 times per day for 14 days, or oral acyclovir 800 mg 5 times/day for 14 days, or another comparable chemoprophylaxis. A starter dose should be provided. Note that PEP for HIV is not indicated following macaque exposures.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
Post Exposure *PRINT&GO* Sheet

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Testing for Macacine herpes virus 1 can only be performed at the National B Virus Resource Center at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

Perform the following specimen collection (tubes/culture media provided by the patient):

- Two (2) serum separator (SST) blood collection tubes [red top or red+gray tiger-top tubes].- Viral swab(s) of affected area in commercially prepared viral transport media (VTM) [gold-top tubes], if appropriate, based on nature of exposure.

WHS staff will collect specimens using the tubes in the kit provided by the patient. Specimens will be submitted within 2 hours (or within 24 hours if kept refrigerated) by the employee to the Columbia Institute for Comparative Medicine (ICM) Pathology Section (Black Building 19th floor, room 1912C, or the Jerome L. Greene Science Center, vet tech office room SC4-033) for centrifugation and serum shipment to the National B Virus Resource Center. Contact the Veterinarian-on-call to schedule specimen drop-off.

NYP-ER staff will collect blood specimens in gold-top SST tubes and the swab in any viral transport media (or as specified in Epic) and will submit specimens to the NYPH automated lab. The Epic code for the serum specimen is HERPES VIRUS B ANTIBODY (Code LAB101112), and for the swabs is HERPES VIRUS B, PCR (Code LAB101113), NYP Sendout CU-GEORGIA. The National B Virus Resource Center requisition form will be completed (<https://biotech.gsu.edu/virology/PDFs/2015%20Submission%20Form.pdf>). Other specific tests such as CBC, metabolic panel and liver function may be ordered per the clinical judgement of NYP-ER staff. The NYPH lab will separate the serum. ICM staff will collect the specimens from the NYPH lab for submission to the National B Virus Resource Center, along with any applicable specimens from the macaque.

NYP-ER staff with questions should contact the Administrator on Call or the VC for ER Operations, Dr. Jeremy Rose. The employee should visit WHS the following business day to complete an incident report form.

Next steps:

If evaluated at the ER, follow up with respective campus provider next business day. Notify supervisor of incident.

ICM staff should submit an [Accident Report Form](#) to the ICM main office (Black building, room 1810) and investigators should submit to leavemanagement@columbia.edu, occusafety@columbia.edu and their Departmental HR representative. Be sure to identify the animal that injured you when making the report (by cage card or tattoo number).

Any medical bills from the ER should not be paid by you but should be submitted to your Departmental HR representative so that they can be submitted for payment by Workers Compensation.

Contact information:

ICM Veterinarian On Call - (917) 232-5319
Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) –
Ask for a Biosafety Officer. Monday - Friday: 9 am - 5 pm (212) 305-6780

Public Safety can contact an EH&S Biosafety

Officer after business hours
Medical Center - (212) 305-7979, Manhattanville - (212) 853-3333

CUIMC Office of Workforce Health and Safety –
(212) 305-7590
Mon. - Fri. 7:30 am - 4:00 pm