

OHS Case ID: **8947DPWBPWM**

Field Visit no: **8947DPWBPWM-8947-FV001**

Visit Date: **2025-SEP-16**

Field Visit Type: **INITIAL**

Workplace Identification:

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY**

Notice ID:

**1151 RICHMOND STREET, LONDON, ON CA N6A 3K7**

Telephone:  
**(519) 661-2111**

JHSC Status:  
**Active**

Work Force #:  
**1400**

Completed %:

Persons Contacted: **Courtney Voss, Registered Biological Safety Officer; Cleusa De Oliveira, Certified JHSC Worker Member; Melissa Pickering, Operation Manager, Other Workers.**

Visit Purpose: **To investigate a report of an occupational illness reported by the employer.**

Visit Location: **Support Services Building; West Valley Building; Office area, Cage Washing hallway, Cage Washing Room.**

Visit Summary: **Order issued, see detailed narrative.**

#### Detailed Narrative:

Employer contacted the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) to report an occupational illness. Event ID 250689375-EVS.

This inspector attended this workplace with MLITSD Denise Madsen, Infection Prevention and Control Specialist and MLITSD Dr. Marina Afanasyeva, Medical Consultant.

MLITSD staff requested information regarding the University's policies on air quality in and around the animal facilities, as well as respiratory protection measures when working with animals.

Western University provided the following documents via email on September 12, 2025:

- Air Monitoring Study – Animal Care Facilities, dated October 25, 2016
- Western Allergen Exposure Reduction Policy, dated October 2016

On August 22, 2025, the employer submitted a report of an occupational illness to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD), involving a worker.

The following information was reported:

- On June 9, 2025, the worker reported symptoms of an allergic reaction to Western University.
- On August 22, 2025, a diagnosis was reported to Western University Workplace Health.

The employer indicated that corrective measures have been implemented.

#### MLITSD Staff's / Findings and Actions:

Met with the individuals contacted and discussed the purpose of the visit.

Clarified the information provided by the employer and gathered additional details.

#### Physical Inspection West Valley Building.

##### Office Area:

It was reported by those contacted that workers entering designated areas are required to wear N95 masks.

The requirements of the respiratory protection program, as outlined in Ontario Regulation 833 – Control of Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents, Sections 9 to 13, were discussed with the individuals contacted. They stated that their respiratory protection program complies with the requirements of this regulation.

##### Cage Washing Room:

The cage washing room is accessed through a corridor adjacent to the foyer of the office area. A pungent odour is noticeable in the corridor before entering the cage washing room. Individuals interviewed stated that workers in the cage washing room are required to wear an N95 respirator, along with other personal protective equipment, which includes, but is not limited to, hearing protection.

Recipient	Inspector Data	Worker Representative
Name <u>Courtney Voss</u>	<b>Raul I. Rivas</b> O.H.S.A. & B.O.S.T.A INSPECTOR PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER	Name <u>Cleusa de Oliveira</u>
Title <u>Biological Safety Officer</u>	217 York Street, 5th Floor, London, ON N6A 5P9 CMHSPDNC@ontario.ca Tel: (519) 933-5897 Fax: (519) 472-0268	Title <u>JHSC- co- chair- worker rep</u>
Signature <u>C. Voss</u>	Signature <u>[Signature]</u>	Signature <u>[Signature]</u>

You are required under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to post a copy of this report in a conspicuous place at the workplace and provide a copy to the health and safety representative or the joint health and safety committee if any. Failure to comply with an order, decision or requirement of an inspector is an offence under Section 66 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. You have the right to appeal any order or decision within 30 days of the date of the order issued and to request suspension of the order or decision by filing your appeal and request in writing on the appropriate forms with the Ontario Labour Relations Board, 505 University Ave., 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5G 2P1. You may also contact the Board by phone at (416) 326-7500 or 1-877-339-3335 (toll free), mail or by website at <http://www.omb.gov.on.ca/> for more information.

The Government of Ontario wants to hear from you. You can provide feedback on this visit at 1-888-745-8888

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Racks of dirty cages filled with known allergy-causing agents, such as animal urine, saliva, dander, hair and bedding were observed in the corridor outside of the dirty cage washing room. Number of dirty cages at any given time predicts allergen concentration. To reduce animal allergen levels the cage density should be kept as low as practicable. [ORDER ISSUED].

The section of the corridor containing dirty cages has the doors closed on all sides and the air flow appeared reduced compared to other areas of the building. It is the best practice to maintain appropriate number or air changes per hour in areas containing dirty animal changes (see the resource).

#### Resources

Health and Safety Executive. U.K. Control of laboratory animal allergy. Guidance Note EH76.

NOT ALL AREAS OF THIS WORKPLACE WERE INSPECTED AT THE TIME OF THIS VISIT

Pursuant to OHSA/90 Section 57, subsection (10a), THE EMPLOYER SHALL FORTHWITH POST A COPY OF THIS ENTIRE REPORT IN THE WORKPLACE WHERE IT WILL COME TO THE ATTENTION OF WORKERS.

Recipient	Inspector Data	Worker Representative
Name _____	<b>Raul I. Rivas</b> O.H.S.A. & B.O.S.T.A INSPECTOR PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER	Name _____
Title _____	217 York Street, 5th Floor, London, ON N6A 5P9 CMHSPDNCCompliance@ontario.ca Tel: (519) 933-5897 Fax: (519) 672-0268	Title _____
Signature 	Signature 	Signature 

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