

----- Original Message -----

Subject:2008-003 Fenton - Response to OH&S Clarification for Rabies - Potential

Date:Thu, 19 Apr 2012 10:28:27 -0400

From:AUSPC <auspc@uwo.ca>

To:'Jennifer Stanley' <jstanle2@uwo.ca>

Hi Jennifer

Below is the response that Dr Fenton provided in response to the question / clarification that you requested in your review of his protocol for "Rabies – Potential"

Please advise on how you would like me to proceed.

I have attached a copy of the protocol so that you can have context for the question that was asked

1. Jennifer Stanely (OH&S Biosafety Officer) had the following comment for the Potential Rabies Exposure *Per page 10 of the Biological Agents Registry Form , approved by the Biohazards Subcommittee, "ppe for fieldwork: appropriate gloves, glasses, N95 fit-tested respirator; call X80315, Sintia, to set up an appt for fit testing"*

This is close to the most uninformed view about exposure to rabies that I have encountered. For small bats I do not wear gloves. For big bats I do. But only one glove because you need a free hand to manipulate the bat. I do not need special glasses (other than prescription lenses) or a respirator. These requirements appear to reflect an outdated view that rabies is transmitted by an aerosol route. I know of no evidence supporting the aerosol route, other than discredited research from the 1950's and an unfortunate case of mouth pipetting of live virus.

THE important issue is preexposure vaccination.