

Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure Prevention Plan

The purpose of this plan is to protect employees against exposure and disease during an airborne infectious disease outbreak. This plan goes into effect when an airborne infectious disease is designated by the New York State Commissioner of Health as a highly contagious communicable disease that presents a serious risk of harm to the public health. This plan is subject to any additional or greater requirements arising from a declaration of a state of emergency due to an airborne infectious disease, as well as any applicable federal standards.

Employees should report any questions or concerns with the implementation this plan to the designated contact.

This plan applies to all “employees” as defined by the New York State HERO Act, which means any person providing labor or services for remuneration for a private entity or business within the state, without regard to an individual’s immigration status, and shall include part-time workers, independent contractors, domestic workers, home care and personal care workers, day laborers, farmworkers and other temporary and seasonal workers. The term also includes individuals working for digital applications or platforms, staffing agencies, contractors, or subcontractors on behalf of the employer at any individual work site, as well as any individual delivering goods or transporting people at, to or from the work site on behalf of the employer, regardless of whether delivery or transport is conducted by an individual or entity that would otherwise be deemed an employer under this chapter. The term does not include employees or independent contractors of the state, any political subdivision of the state, a public authority, or any other governmental agency or instrumentality.

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I. RESPONSIBILITIES

This plan applies to all employees of Miner Institute.

The following supervisory employee(s) are designated to enforce compliance with the plan. Additionally, these supervisory employees will act as the designated contacts unless otherwise noted in this plan:

Name	Title	Location	Phone
Kirk Beattie	VP, Admin. & Finance	Farm Office	518-846-7121 x114
Steve Kramer	Director of Labs	BERC Center	518-846-7121 x127
Mike Lemza	Director of Maintenance	Maintenance Bldg.	518-846-7121 x131
Karen Lassell	Equine Manager	Horse Barn	518-846-7121 x120
Steve Couture	Farm Manager	Dairy barn	518-846-7121 x133

II. EXPOSURE CONTROLS DURING A DESIGNATED OUTBREAK

A. MINIMUM CONTROLS DURING AN OUTBREAK

During an airborne infectious disease outbreak, the following minimum controls will be used in all areas of the worksite:

1. **General Awareness:** Individuals may not be aware that they have the infectious disease and can spread it to others. Employees should remember to:

- Maintain physical distancing;
- Exercise coughing/sneezing etiquette;
- Wear face coverings, gloves, and personal protective equipment (PPE), as appropriate;
- Individuals limit what they touch;
- Stop social etiquette behaviors such as hugging and hand shaking, and
- Wash hands properly and often.

2. **“Stay at Home Policy”:** If an employee develops symptoms of the infectious disease, the employee should not be in the workplace. The employee should inform the designated contact and follow New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance regarding obtaining medical care and isolating.

3. **Health Screening:** Employees will be screened for symptoms of the infectious disease at the beginning of their shift. Employees are to self-monitor throughout their shift and report any new or emerging signs or symptoms of the infectious disease to the designated contact. An employee showing signs or symptoms of the infectious disease should be removed from the workplace and should contact a healthcare professional for instructions. The health screening elements will follow guidance from NYSDOH and CDC guidance, if available.

4. **Face Coverings:** To protect your coworkers, unvaccinated employees will wear face coverings throughout the workday when indoors to the greatest extent possible. Face coverings and physical distancing should be used together whenever possible. The face covering must cover the nose and mouth, and fit snugly, but comfortably, against the face. The face covering itself must not create a hazard, e.g. have features could get caught in machinery or cause severe fogging of eyewear. The face

coverings must be kept clean and sanitary and changed when soiled, contaminated, or damaged. Face covering requirements will follow guidance from NYSDOH and CDC guidance, if available.

5. **Physical Distancing:** Physical distancing will be followed as much as feasible. Avoid unnecessary gatherings and maintain a distance of at least six feet (or as recommended by the NYSDOH/CDC for the infectious agent) from each other. Use a face covering when physical distance cannot be maintained. In situations where prolonged close contact with other individuals is likely, use the following control methods: (Note to employer: Check off the controls you intend to use and add any additional controls not listed here.)

- restricting or limiting customer or visitor entry;
- limiting occupancy;
- • signage;
- telecommuting;
- • **remote meetings; Staff are encouraged to use remote meeting options if feasible**
- • **preventing/limiting gatherings; Employees attending in-person meetings larger than 50 people must wear masks. Meetings larger than 50 hosted at Miner Institute will require masks be worn by attendees.**
- • **restricting travel; Employees are encouraged to limit travel and use remote options if possible**
 - creating new work shifts and/or staggering work hours;
 - adjusting break times and lunch periods;

6. **Hand Hygiene:** To prevent the spread of infection, employees should wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to clean hands BEFORE and AFTER:

- Touching your eyes, nose, or mouth;
- Touching your mask;
- Entering and leaving a public place; and
- Touching an item or surface that may be frequently touched by other people, such as door handles, tables, gas pumps, shopping carts, or electronic cashier registers/screens.

Because hand sanitizers are less effective on soiled hands, wash hands rather than using hand sanitizer when your hands are soiled.

7. **Cleaning and Disinfection:** See Section V of this plan.

8. **“Respiratory Etiquette”:** Because infectious diseases can be spread by droplets expelled from the mouth and nose, employees should exercise appropriate respiratory etiquette by covering nose and mouth when sneezing, coughing or yawning.

9. **Special Accommodations for Individuals with Added Risk Factors:** Some employees, due to age, underlying health condition, or other factors, may be at increased risk of severe illness if infected. Please inform your supervisor or the HR department if you fall within this group and need an accommodation.

B. ADVANCED CONTROLS DURING AN OUTBREAK

For activities where the Minimum Controls alone will not provide sufficient protection for employees, additional controls from the following hierarchy may be necessary. Employers should determine if the following are necessary:

1. Elimination: Employers should consider the temporary suspension or elimination of risky activities where adequate controls could not provide sufficient protection for employees. Examples include:

1. Limiting or eliminating in-person learning,
2. Limiting gatherings by location (outdoors), and scale
3. Limiting or eliminating in-person recreational events.

2. Engineering Controls: Employers should consider appropriate controls to contain and/or remove the infectious agent, prevent the agent from being spread, or isolate the worker from the infectious agent. Examples of engineering controls include:

• Mechanical Ventilation such as local exhaust ventilation, for example:

• Local duct.

a. General Ventilation:

- Utilize air filters with rating of Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) 13 or higher, if compatible with the HVAC system(s). If MERV-13 or higher filters are not compatible with the HVAC system(s), use filters with the highest compatible filtering efficiency for the HVAC system(s);
- If fans are used in the facility, arrange them so that air does not blow directly from one worker to another. Remove personal fans as necessary but keep heat hazards in mind and address in other methods if appropriate; and

3. Natural Ventilation:

- Opening outside windows and doors; and
- Opening windows on one side of the room to let fresh air in and installing window exhaust fans on the opposite side of the room so that they exhaust air outdoors.
- Install hand washing or sanitizing stations throughout facility.

Subject to changes based on operations and circumstances surrounding the infectious disease, engineering controls that are anticipated to be used are listed in the following table:

Engineering Controls	Utilized/Location:
Air filters are installed and will be cleaned on a routine basis where possible. Windows/Doors will be opened to promote natural ventilation in the BERC building and other areas as feasible.	
Hygiene stations installed at all building entrances to include masks and hand sanitizer.	
Masks will be required for all indoor large group gatherings of greater than 50 regardless of vaccination status.	

4. "Administrative Controls" are policies and work rules used to prevent exposure. Examples include:

- Increasing the space between employees and students;
- Disinfecting procedures for specific operations;
- Employee training;
- Identify and prioritize job functions that are essential for continuous operations;
- Cross-train employees to ensure critical operations can continue during worker absence;
- Limit the use of shared workstations;
- Close break rooms;
- Prohibiting eating and drinking in the work area;
- Do not utilize drinking fountains;
- Post signs reminding of respiratory etiquette, masks, hand hygiene;
- Establishing pods or cohorts of staff and students to limit exposure;
- Utilize remote learning methods;
- Require health screening of students upon entry to facilities; and
- Limit attendance of in-person meetings. Host the meetings outdoors or electronically.

Subject to changes based on operations and circumstances surrounding the infectious disease, the following specific administrative controls are anticipated to be used:

Administrative Controls

Utilized/Location:

Daily cleanings will include wipe downs of high-use, multi-person areas such as entrance and bathroom doorknobs, bathrooms and cafeteria seating.

5. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are devices like eye protection, face shields, respirators, and gloves that protect the wearer from infection. PPE will be provided, used and maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition at no cost to the employee. The PPE provided to an employee will be based on a hazard assessment for the workplace. The following PPE that are anticipated to be used are in the following table:

PPE Required - Activity Involved/Location:

Facemasks are available to all employees and students at each building location. They will be required by unvaccinated staff when indoors and environment allows.

C. EXPOSURE CONTROL READINESS, MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE:

The controls we have selected will be obtained, properly stored, and maintained so that they are ready for immediate use in the event of an infectious disease outbreak and any applicable expiration dates will be properly considered.

III. HOUSEKEEPING DURING A DESIGNATED OUTBREAK

A. Disinfection Methods and Schedules

Objects that are touched repeatedly by multiple individuals, such as door handles, light switches, control buttons/levers, dials, levers, water faucet handles, computers, phones, or handrails must be cleaned frequently with an appropriate disinfectant. Surfaces that are handled less often, or by fewer individuals, may require less frequent disinfection. The disinfection methods and schedules selected are based on specific workplace conditions. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have compiled lists of approved disinfectants that are effective against many infectious agents (see dec.ny.gov and epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants).

B. Adjustments to Normal Housekeeping Procedures

Normal housekeeping duties and schedules should continue to be followed during an infectious disease outbreak, to the extent practicable and appropriate consistent with NYSDOH and/or CDC guidance in effect at the time. However, routine procedures may need to be adjusted and additional cleaning and disinfecting may be required. Housekeeping staff may be at increased risk because they may be cleaning many potentially contaminated surfaces. Some housekeeping activities, like dry sweeping, vacuuming, and dusting, can resuspend into the air particles that are contaminated with the infectious agent. For that reason, alternative methods and/or increased levels of protection may be needed.

Rather than dusting, for example, the CDC recommends cleaning surfaces with soap and water before disinfecting them. Conducting housekeeping during "off" hours may also reduce other workers' exposures to the infectious agent. Best practice dictates that housekeepers should wear respiratory protection. See cdc.gov for more guidance.

C. If an employee develops symptoms of the infectious disease at work, it is ideal to isolate the area in accordance with guidance issued by NYSDOH or the CDC, before cleaning and disinfecting the sick employee's work area. This delay will allow contaminated droplets to settle out of the air and the space to be ventilated.

D. As feasible, liners should be used in trash containers. Empty the containers often enough to prevent overfilling. Do not forcefully squeeze the air out of the trash bags before tying them closed. Trash containers may contain soiled tissue or face coverings.

IV. INFECTION RESPONSE DURING A DESIGNATED OUTBREAK

If an actual, or suspected, infectious disease case occurs at work, take the following actions:

- Instruct the sick individual to wear a face covering and leave the worksite and follow NYSDOH/CDC guidance.
- Follow local and state authority guidance to inform impacted individuals.

V. TRAINING AND INFORMATION DURING A DESIGNATED OUTBREAK

A. Supervisors will verbally inform all employees of the existence and location of this Plan, the circumstances it can be activated, the infectious disease standard, employer policies, and employee rights under the HERO Act.

B. When this plan is activated, all personnel will receive training which will cover all elements of this plan and the following topics:

1. The infectious agent and the disease(s) it can cause;
2. The signs and symptoms of the disease;
3. How the disease can be spread;
4. An explanation of this Exposure Prevention Plan;
5. The activities and locations at our worksite that may involve exposure to the infectious agent;
6. The use and limitations of exposure controls
7. A review of the standard, including employee rights provided under Labor Law, Section 218-B.

C. The training will be

1. Provided at no cost to employees and take place during working hours.
2. Appropriate in content and vocabulary to your educational level, literacy, and preferred language; and
3. Verbally provided in person or through telephonic, electronic, or other means.

VI. PLAN EVALUATIONS DURING A DESIGNATED OUTBREAK

The employer will review and revise the plan periodically, upon activation of the plan, and as often as needed to keep up-to-date with current requirements. Document the plan revisions below:

Plan Revision History

Date	Participants	Major Changes
9/8/21	Safety Committee	Covid-19 outbreak following vaccination

VII. RETALIATION PROTECTIONS AND REPORTING OF ANY VIOLATIONS

No employer, or his or her agent, or person, , acting as or on behalf of a hiring entity, or the officer or agent of any entity, business, corporation, partnership, or limited liability company, shall discriminate, threaten, retaliate against, or take adverse action against any employee for exercising their rights under this plan, including reporting conduct the employee reasonably believes in good faith violates the plan or airborne infectious disease concerns to their employer, government agencies or officials or for

refusing to work where an employee reasonably believes in good faith that such work exposes him or her, other workers, or the public to an unreasonable risk of exposure, provided the employee, another employee, or representative has notified the employer verbally or in writing, including electronic communication, of the inconsistent working conditions and the employer's failure to cure or if the employer knew or should have known of the consistent working conditions. Notification of a violation by an employee may be made verbally or in writing, and without limitation to format including electronic communications. To the extent that communications between the employer and employee regarding a potential risk of exposure are in writing, they shall be maintained by the employer for two years after the conclusion of the designation of a high risk disease from the Commissioner of Health, or two years after the conclusion of the Governor's emergency declaration of a high risk disease. Employer should include contact information to report violations of this plan and retaliation during regular business hours and for weekends/other non-regular business hours when employees may be working.