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| 1   | Not known to consistently cause diseases in healthy adults | Standard animal care and management practices, including appropriate medical surveillance programs | As required for normal care of each species PPE: laboratory coats and gloves; eye, face protection, as needed | Standard animal facility:  
- No recirculation of exhaust air  
- Directional air flow recommended  
- Hand washing sink is available |
| 2   | Agents associated with human disease  
Hazard: percutaneous injury, ingestion, mucous membrane exposure | ABSL-1 practice plus:  
- Limited access  
- Biohazard warning signs  
- “Sharps” precautions  
- Biosafety manual  
- Decontamination of all infectious wastes and animal cages prior to washing | ABSL-1 equipment plus primary barriers:  
- Containment equipment appropriate for animal special PPE: Laboratory coats, gloves, face, eye and respiratory protection, as needed | ABSL-1 plus:  
- Autoclave available  
- Hand washing sink available  
- Mechanical cage washer recommended  
- Negative airflow into animal and procedure rooms recommended |
| 3   | Indigenous or exotic agents that may cause serious or potentially lethal disease through the inhalation route of exposure | ABSL-2 practice plus:  
- Controlled access  
- Decontamination of clothing before laundering  
- Cages decontaminated before bedding is removed  
- Disinfectant foot bath as needed | ABSL-2 equipment plus:  
- Containment equipment for housing animals and cage dumping activities  
- Class I, II or III BSCs available for manipulative procedures (inoculation, necropsy) that may create infectious aerosols  
- PPE: Appropriate respiratory protection | ABSL-2 facility plus:  
- Physical separation from access corridors  
- Self-closing, double-door access  
- Sealed penetrations  
- Sealed windows  
- Autoclave available in facility  
- Entry through ante-room or airlock  
- Negative airflow into animal and procedure rooms  
- Hand washing sink near exit of animal or procedure room |
| 4   | Dangerous/exotic agents which post high risk of aerosol transmitted laboratory infections that are frequently fatal, for which there are no vaccines or treatments  
Agents with a close or identical antigenic relationship to an agent requiring BSL-4 until data are available to redesignate the level  
Related agents with unknown risk of transmission | ABSL-3 practices plus:  
- Entrance through change room where personal clothing is removed and laboratory clothing is put on; shower on exiting  
- All wastes are decontaminated before removal from the facility | ABSL-3 equipment plus:  
- Maximum containment equipment (i.e., Class III BSC or partial containment equipment in combination with full body, air-supplied positive-pressure suit) used for all procedures and activities | ABSL-3 facility plus:  
- Separate building or isolated zone  
- Dedicated supply and exhaust, vacuum, and decontamination systems  
- Other requirements outlined in the text |