

Supplementary Information

Appendix I:

Questions based on PPE standards:

1. Does your employer (EPHI) limit access into the laboratory for personnel that don't have the pre-exposure immunization?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Sometimes
2. How many pre-exposure immunizations did you receive in the last year?
3. Do you currently use any of these items during head removal:
 - Coveralls
 - Waterproof smock
 - Apron
 - Gown
 - Large plastic bag with holes for arms and head cut out
 - Other: _____
 - None of the above
4. Do you currently use any of these items for hand safety during head removal:
 - Disposable gloves
 - Rubber kitchen gloves
 - Heavy leather gloves
 - Butcher's gloves
 - Heavy waterproof gloves
 - Stainless steel mesh knife cut resistant gloves
 - Other: _____
 - None of the above
5. Do you currently use any of these items for eye protection during head removal:
 - Safety glasses
 - Goggles
 - Other: _____
 - None of the above
6. Do you currently use any of these items to avoid inhalation of particles during head removal:
 - Surgical mask
 - Respirator (N-95 or PAPR)
 - Bandana tied over mouth and nose
 - Other: _____
 - None of the above

7. How would you protect yourself if you had a wound, cut, or scratch on your arms, hands, face, while in the lab?
8. How do you remove your PPE after working in the lab? List the order of how you remove the PPE (gloves, apron, gown, etc.)
9. After removing your PPE, is there any other protective measure that you take?
10. Do you have a biosafety notebook in the lab listing standard safety procedures?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unknown

Questions based on cleaning supplies/procedures:

11. What do you use to clean up spills or messes in the lab?
12. How do you dispose of trash? Show me the bag and/or trashcan that trash is put into while working in the lab.
13. What type of liquid soap are you using for cleaning? Show me.
14. What type of disinfectant are you using in the lab? Show me.
How often do you change it out? How long is it effective for?
15. How long is the contact time of the disinfectant on the surfaces?
16. How do you clean/sterilize the tools after use?
17. How do you remove gross contamination from surfaces in the lab?

Questions based on removing the head and proper equipment:

18. Check the items that you're currently using to remove the head:
 - Large scalpel
 - Large knife
 - Hack saw
 - Axe
 - Hatchet
 - Other: _____
 - No tools available
19. How do you prepare the body before removing the head?
20. How do you prepare the workspace (i.e. table) before removing the head?
21. Do you verify the animal is dead before removing the head? If so, how?
22. Explain to me how you cut the head off?
23. Do you dispose of the scalpel blade after each animal?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Sometimes
24. Do you change gloves between each animal to reduce cross contamination?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Sometimes
25. How do you store the head after removal?

26. What do you place the head or sections of the brain in before it's taken to the testing lab?

Questions based on management of animals/samples

27. Does the animal come in with information on:

- Date
- Location found
- Owner information (phone number and address)
- Type of exposure (bite/pet/close contact)
- Status of person bitten
- Species of animal
- Age, sex, vaccination status of animal?
- Who brought in the animal?
- How long animal has been dead?
- Signs the animal was exhibiting to lead investigators to suspect rabies?

28. Are identifiers such as a number given to the animal? If so, is the identifier, such as a number, consistent through the whole process (ie. From when the animal was picked up, head was removed, and brain tissues sampled)

29. How long does the carcass or head sit in the lab until it's removed from the body or brain tissues are sampled? (ie. Does the lab prepare the sample immediately or does the animal sit for a few days)? Where is it stored during that time?

30. Is the data from the animal and owner entered into a computer spreadsheet or computer database? If yes, what program? Who is responsible for entering the data?

31. When do you enter the data on the animal into the spreadsheet, database, or paper copy?

32. How long do you retain frozen brain samples? Where are they stored?

33. How do you dispose of the animal carcass after you cut off the head? If you burn it, where do you burn it and in what? If you bury the carcass, where and how deep do you bury the carcass?

Questions on attitudes and behaviors towards job:

34. Do you feel comfortable removing the head?

- Yes
- No

35. Would you prefer the head only on delivery? If yes, why?

36. Was the rabies laboratory training that you received from the CDC team in September and December 2018 helpful?

37. If it was helpful, please provide examples of how you benefitted from the training. If it was not helpful, please explain why it was not helpful?

38. Is there any additional training that you would like CDC to provide to you?