

First Aid for Suspected Exposure to Macacine Alphaherpesvirus 1 (B Virus)

This document sets out the **minimum actions** required following a suspected exposure to **Macacine alphaherpesvirus 1 (B virus)**.

All suspected exposures must be treated as serious medical incidents, as even minor exposures may be fatal. Potential exposures can occur through bites, scratches, other wounds or punctures and contact with macaque bodily fluids. Contact with bodily fluids can arise from direct animal contact as well as contact with associated materials & equipment including samples, bedding, enclosures, contaminated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as water-impermeable overalls or changing air filters etc.

This document applies to all activities:

- involving working with or in proximity to macaques, and;
- conducted by Monash University workers, students, contractors and visitors.

Emergency Procedures for Suspected Exposure

IMMEDIATELY wash the affected area for at least 15 minutes. This is the single most important intervention, do not delay this step.

Wash and gently scrub with soap, detergent or antiseptic (povidone-iodine or chlorhexidine – do not use both on the same exposure site).

Rinse the area with water for an additional 15 mins.

If the EYES, NOSE OR MOUTH are involved, irrigate with water for 15 minutes.



NOTIFY YOUR SUPERVISOR in person

Notify your supervisor in person or verbally by telephone as soon as possible.

Text messages and emails are not appropriate as they may go unread for some time.

The supervisor must notify the HSW Consultant/Advisor for your area and the Occupational Health Nurse Consultant.



All suspected exposures must be assessed by a medical health professional.

For incidents which occur between 9am and 6pm any day of the week, call [Teldoc Australia](#)* or attend the Emergency Department or access the [Victorian Virtual Emergency Department](#).

Teldoc Telephone: (02) 9064 2839

Note: Teldoc Australia hours are 9am – 7pm, 7 days/week.

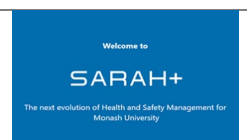
For incidents which occur before 8am or after 6pm, the person must attend their local Emergency Department or access the [Victorian Virtual Emergency Department](#).

This document or the digital medical alert card for suspected exposures may be provided to facilitate understanding of B Virus and, associated risks and appropriate postexposure prophylaxis (antivirals).

*Teldoc Australia has established a practice protocol with Monash University to ensure their GPs are familiar with the risks associated with exposure and the appropriate post exposure prophylaxis (treatment).



Report the incident within [SARAH+](#)



First Aid Waste Material

Any contaminated waste generated through provision of first aid following a suspected exposure is to be contained and disposed of as biohazard waste ([Using Biologicals and Animals Procedure – Section 14](#)).

Infectious Disease Specialist

The treating doctor may refer the injured worker to an Infectious Disease Specialist for a review. It is the worker's responsibility to attend any referral appointments.

Medical Expenses

Any suspected exposure in the workplace will be considered a workplace incident and the affected person may claim expenses back from Monash University.

If payment is required at the time of a medical appointment (such as Teldoc), it can be charged to a supervisor's/manager's credit card to prevent the affected person having out of pocket expenses.

Post- Exposure Counselling

Counselling should be offered to the affected worker as soon as is reasonably practicable and may be arranged by the injured person, supervisor, OHNC or their delegate. The University's Employee Assistance Program is available 24 hours/7 days on T: 1300 360 364.

Further Information

If further information regarding B Virus is required by a treating medical professional, please scan the QR code below:

