

Restrictions and Entry Procedures for visitors to the Mary Lyon Centre (MLC) Animal Unit

48 hour Exclusion: Visitors who have been in another mouse facility or in contact with rodent material are not allowed to enter the MLC for 48 hours. This exclusion period minimizes the risk of introducing infectious diseases into our mouse colony.

Other animals can harbour laboratory mouse pathogens: At least 18 common mouse pathogens have alternative hosts such as wild mice, pet mice, rats, hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits and gerbils. Ownership of rodent pets, inadvertent contact with mice and rats through ownership of cats, snakes (fed mice), horses and livestock or pursuits such as rabbit shooting, also risk contact with infected animals. If you have had direct or indirect contact with the animals mentioned you may be refused entry or are required to undertake a full wet shower before entering the unit. Please speak to the member of staff showing you through the barrier or phone in advance to discuss any problems.

The Entry Procedure into the MLC Main Unit: There are male and female changing areas. To enter the changing rooms you step over a 20cm high 50cm wide barrier and don disposable shoe covers. You must remove your outer clothing and place these in a lockable locker. We stock a range of sizes in clothing and shoes but if you feel we may not have your size then please let us know and we will attempt to supply them. You will be provided with 100% polyester trousers, tunic and socks. As you proceed to step over the floor barrier you will be provided with unit shoes. On entering the air shower corridor you must wash your hands with bactericidal hand soap and dress in the provided one-piece coverall and mobcap. Individuals with beards will be provided with beard guards.

All staff and visitors entering the unit must proceed through the air barrier. This is a chamber in which high velocity HEPA filtered air is blown at the individual to cleanse clothing of allergens and any other dust particles. Individuals with contact lenses should keep their eyes shut during the fifty-second cycle, and those with sensitive hearing may wish to cover their ears.

On exiting the air shower you will be escorted to the area you are visiting.

Exit Procedure: You will exit the unit via the air showers and remove all the personal protective clothing provided as instructed, in the changing area.

All personal protective clothing will be provided and a member of the MLC staff will be available for assistance at all times.