Statement - The Ontario Veterinary College, (OVC) is responsible for ensuring that all applicable Faculty/Veterinarians, DSVcs, Residents, Interns, Graduate Students, Staff and Students are protected against rabies by complying with the requirement to have a protective titre.


1. Requirement for Protective Titre
   i. It is a requirement to have a protective titre against rabies for anyone working or studying where exposure to rabies is a possibility.
      a. All applicable individuals will be required to provide evidence of a protective rabies titre biennially.
   ii. Exception: Incoming Veterinary Students can work with the OVC resident cows, horses and teaching dog colony after receiving the first of their rabies vaccines. All other student animal contact requires a protective rabies titre.

2. Applicability
   i. This Guideline applies to faculty/Veterinarians, DVScs, residents, staff, graduate students and students of the Ontario Veterinary College for whom exposure to rabies is a possibility. Exclusion: This Guideline does not apply to OVC visitors or volunteers; requirements for visitors and volunteers are addressed in OVC Health Services Centre (OVC HSC) Guideline Owners and/or Agents Accompanying Animals Upon Admission, OVC HSC Guideline Personal Pets in the OVC HSC and OVC HSC Guideline Donations of Medical Surgical Equipment and Supplies.

3. Management of the Surveillance Program
   i. The program will be managed within OVC at the departmental/unit/supervisor level in conjunction with Occupational Health and Wellness (OHW) and Student Health Services (SHS).
4. Responsibility for Providing Rabies Immunization and Titres and Payment
   i. Responsibility for providing rabies immunization, titre checks and payment is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Occupational Health and Wellness (provides immunization and titre checks)</th>
<th>Student Health Services (provides immunization and titre checks)</th>
<th>Responsibility for Costs (immunization and boosters)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty/Veterinarians</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Department/unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Department/unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Students (includes DVScs)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o DVScs</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Researcher/department/unit or Individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Graduate Teaching Assistantship</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Graduate Research Assistantship</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Graduate Services Assistantship</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Multiple Assistantship positions</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Department/unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interns</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Department/unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVM Students, Phases 1-4</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Student Health Plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Identification of Individuals Requiring Rabies Immunization
   i. OVC departments/units/supervisors are responsible for preparing and maintaining a list of clinicians, staff, graduate students and students who require a protective titre against rabies; *Rabies Titre Requirement List*.

   ii. The lists must contain the following information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department/Unit Name</td>
<td>Name of the applicable OVC department/unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department/unit/supervisor Contact Name</td>
<td>Name of person responsible for administering the surveillance program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Person</td>
<td>As applicable; Faculty/Veterinarians, DVScs, Residents, Interns, Graduate Students, Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Type of category; Faculty, Veterinarian, DVScs, Resident, Intern, Graduate Student, Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position</td>
<td>Position within the Department/Unit Examples: Faculty Companion Animal Surgery, Veterinarian Large Animal Medicine, DVSc Theriogenology, Veterinary Technician, Agricultural Assistant, Animal Attendant, SPD Technician, Laboratory Technician, Student (specify phase), Other (specify)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area responsible for providing rabies vaccination and/or titres</td>
<td>Occupational Health and Wellness or SHS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   iii. The lists must be sent by the OVC department/unit/supervisor to OHW annually, early Spring, prior to the commencement of the Rabies Titre Clinic(s) and, to SHS prior to the beginning of the Fall Semester.
6. Notification of Requirement for Rabies Protection
   i. The department/unit/supervisor are responsible for informing applicable individuals that having and maintain a protective rabies titre is a requirement of employment/graduate student/student status.

   ii. OHW or SHS will notify the department/unit/supervisor who must notify the applicable individuals of the date, time and location when OHW and/or SHS will be conducting Rabies Titre Clinics.

7. New Faculty/Veterinarians, DVScs, Residents, Interns, Staff, Graduate Students, Students
   
   Note: New is defined as an individual newly hired to work at the OVC or newly enrolled at OVC as a Graduate Student or DVM Student.

   i. Individuals Requiring Initial Rabies Vaccination
      a. Individuals requiring initial rabies vaccination will be directed to OHW or SHS, as applicable, at the commencement of employment or enrolment.
      b. OHW or SHS will administer a series of protective rabies vaccines.
      c. Upon completion of the series and obtainment of a protective rabies titre, OHW or SHS will notify the applicable OVC department/unit/supervisor that the individual is cleared for working/studying in areas where exposure to rabies is a possibility.

   Note: department/unit/supervisor may allow the individual to work in an area without proof of a protective titre as long as the individual has commenced the vaccination process and has been advised of the risks.

   ii. Individuals With an Existing Rabies Immunization
      a. Faculty/Veterinarians, DVScs, Residents, Interns, Staff or Graduate Students who begin employment or enrolment with OVC, who already have been vaccinated for rabies and have proof of a protective titre dated within two years of their start date, do not require follow up with OHW and SHS.
      b. If proof of protective titre is unavailable or the date is not within two years of their start date, the individual must have their titre drawn by OHW, SHS or family physician, prior to working or studying where exposure to rabies is a possibility.
      c. For individuals requiring a titre drawn, as per bullet 7 ii b, OHW or SHS will advise the applicable OVC department/unit/supervisor of the titre results. OVC Phase 1-4 students, at the commencement of their program and regardless of their rabies titre status, must attend a Rabies Titre Clinic in September conducted by SHS.
8. Requirements for Rabies Titre Following Primary Rabies Immunization
   i. Intramuscular Injections
      a. Titre assessments following intramuscular injections of primary rabies immunization are required one month after the third intramuscular injection. Following the primary immunization, titre assessments must be completed by OHW at the required 2 year intervals. For OVC students, SHS will conduct titre assessments at the start of year 2 and year 4.

   ii. Intradermal Injections
      a. Titre assessments following intradermal injections are required 4 to 6 weeks post completion of the primary series and subsequent to any required boosters until a protective titre status is achieved. Following this, titre assessments must be completed at the required 2 year intervals.

   iii. Rabies Boosters
      a. A titre assessment, regardless of the route of immunization, is required 4 to 6 weeks post booster to determine if a protective rabies titre status has been achieved.

9. Rabies Titre Clinic
   i. OHW will operate an annual Rabies Titre Clinic with OVC departments rotated on a biennial schedule.
      OHW will notify the departments of the schedule as per bullet 6 ii.

   ii. SHS will operate an annual Rabies Titre Clinic at the Ontario Veterinary College in the Fall. Students are able to obtain titre checks at SHS during other times of the year.

   iii. OVC Phase 1 Students who have completed their primary series prior to starting in the DVM program will be required to have a baseline rabies titre completed by SHS in September of their incoming year.
      OVC Phase 1 Students who have not completed a primary rabies immunization series prior to starting in the DVM program will have the primary series completed by SHS in September of their incoming year.
      Titre assessments will then be completed at the start of Year 2 and Year 4 of the DVM program. Boosters will be supplied as required with subsequent titre checks completed as detailed in Section 8, Requirements for Titre Checks Following Primary Immunization.

   iv. OHW will notify the OVC department/unit/supervisor of Rabies Titre Clinic results; protected, low level and unprotected, and the names of individuals who were expected but did not attend the clinic or provide results from their family physician.

   v. SHS will notify the OVC department head/unit/supervisor of Rabies Titre Clinic results; protected and unprotected, and the names of individuals who were expected but did not attend the clinic or provide results from their family physician.
vi. Individuals on the *Rabies Titre Required* list, who did not attend the Rabies Titre Clinic, will be contacted by the applicable department/unit/supervisor to ensure compliance with the Guideline requirement to have a protective titre determined via OHW of SHS.

10. Non-Protective Rabies Titre Status
   i. OHW or SHS will notify individuals with non-protective titres who require boosters: the applicable OVC department/unit/supervisor will also be notified.
   
   ii. **Individuals with non-protective titres may not be allowed to work/study in areas where exposure to rabies is a possibility.** Each case will be reviewed with OHW or SHS on an individual basis with the department/unit/supervisor.
   
   iii. The applicable OVC department/unit/supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the individual’s titre status adheres to the requirement to have their titre boosted within two weeks of being notified by Occupational Health or SHS.
   
   iv. OHW or SHS will notify the applicable OVC department/unit/supervisor once an individual’s titre results have been received.
      a. **Reference:** Public health Agency of Canada; *Canadian Immunization Guide, Part 4 Active Immunizing Agents, Booster doses and re-immunization*
      
      

11. Protective Titre Status
   i. OHW will notify individuals via email of their protective rabies titre result and SHS will notify the OVC Dean’s office and the individuals of their titre status.
   
   ii. It is also the responsibility of the individual to notify their department/unit/supervisor of their protective status.
   
   iii. If the individual fails to notify their department/unit/supervisor, the department/unit/supervisor may contact the individual to obtain the titre status information.

12. Low Titre Status
   i. OHW will notify individuals via email of a low titre result which will require a follow-up titre in six months from the date of the titre check.
   
   ii. It is the responsibility of the individual to notify their department/unit/supervisor of their protective status.
   
   iii. If the individual fails to notify their department/unit/supervisor, the department/unit/supervisor may contact the individual to obtain their titre status information.
   
   iv. Individuals with a low titre are still considered to be protected but OHW requires that their titre level requires increased monitoring; their titre will be rechecked in six months.
13. Compliance

i. Compliance with this Guideline is a requirement of employment/Graduate Student/Student status unless there are extenuating circumstances as determined by OHW or SHS.

ii. Failure to comply with this Guideline will be addressed by the applicable Supervisor in accordance with the employee/Graduate Student’s bargaining group, association or, for OVC Phase 1-4 Students the issue will be addressed by the OVC Associate Dean, Students.

iii. Administration of and compliance with the Guideline will be managed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department/Individuals</th>
<th>Administration of Guideline</th>
<th>Compliance with Guideline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVC Students Phases 1 to 4</td>
<td>OVC Dean’s Office</td>
<td>OVC Associate Dean, Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVC Health Sciences Centre</td>
<td>OVC HSC Senior Manager, Operations</td>
<td>Associate Dean, Clinical Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Veterinarians</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Residents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Interns</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Staff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Departments</td>
<td>Manager, Shared Administrative Services</td>
<td>OVC Dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Faculty</td>
<td></td>
<td>o Faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- DVScs/Residents</td>
<td></td>
<td>Department Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Staff</td>
<td></td>
<td>o Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Graduate Students</td>
<td></td>
<td>o DVScs/Residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the OVC Dean</td>
<td>Chief Administrative Officer</td>
<td>Chief Administrative Officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14. References

i. OHW: [https://www.uoguelph.ca/hr/occupational-health-surveillance-3](https://www.uoguelph.ca/hr/occupational-health-surveillance-3)

OVC Rabies Titre Monitoring Process

Start

Annually, in Spring, OVC provides Occupational Health & Wellness, OHW, with a list of OVC personnel requiring a protective titre

OHW will review the list and indicate individuals requiring titre checks and those not requiring checks. OHW will email OVC SAS and OVC HSC representatives the updated list

OVC SAS and OVC HSC reviews the list and will notify OHW of any changes, (additions, removals etc.)

OHW organizes Rabies Titre clinic dates communicates information to personnel and VOC SAS and OVC HSC

OHW documents clinic attendance and communicates information to applicable department/unit/supervisor

Did all personnel attend the clinic?

no

Do all personnel have a protective or low level titre?

no

OHW to determine monitoring requirements for individuals with low level titre.
o No further action required for individuals with a protective titre

yes

Protective titre obtained following booster?

no

OHW will provide guidance on a case by case basis

yes

The department/unit/supervisor will notify individuals of the two week requirement in which to arrange an appointment with OHW for a booster, or to provide OHW with proof of a protective titre from their own physician. Upon request, OHW will provide individuals with a lab requisition for external titre testing

OVC HSC Operations Assistant to direct information to HSC's employee file

OVC SAS and OVC HSC advertises clinic information internally

OVC SAS and OVC HSC advertises clinic information internally

OHW will notify the department/unit/supervisor of the clinic attendees and of the names of individuals who did not attend

Supervisor contacts the employee via email to notify them of the requirement to maintain a protective titre and to contact OHW or provide proof from their physician

OHW will email individuals and notify their department/area/supervisor of those who have an unprotected titre

Individuals with non-protective titre may not be allowed to work/study in areas where exposure to rabies is a possibility. Each case will be reviewed with OHW or SHS on an individuals asis with the department/unit/supervisor

Department/unit/supervisor to notify individual via email of requirement to maintain a protective titre

Non-Compliance:
For individuals not compliant with obtaining a protective titre, next steps will be determined by the department/unit/supervisor

OVC HSC Operations Assistant to direct information to HSC's employee file

OHW to determine monitoring requirements for individuals with low level titre.
o No further action required for individuals with a protective titre

Yes

OHW will document clinic attendance and communicate information to applicable department/unit/supervisor

OHW will determine monitoring requirements for individuals with low level titre.
o No further action required for individuals with a protective titre

End