

# Zoonotic Diseases Risk Checklist

Workers should use this risk checklist to prepare for work being done with or near animals or insects that could spread diseases to people.

This checklist may not identify all hazards or control measures. Refer to the risk assessment conducted by your employer and ensure that all recommended control measures are in place.

Use this risk checklist daily, weekly, or as needed to ensure that all precautions for preventing zoonotic diseases have been addressed. Please note that some sections may not apply to your industry.

Mark ✓ (check mark) in the  (check box) to respond “yes” based on the description of the section. If the answer is “no” or “not applicable,” provide details in the Notes section at the end of the document. If you’ve answered “no” there may be a potential impact to your health. Be sure to follow up with your employer to investigate and determine appropriate control measures before starting or continuing work.



This resource was developed in partnership with the Centre for Food-borne, Environmental and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

## Wildlife

### Control measures when working with or near wild animals

Mark a “yes” if you have taken precautions to:

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Know and understand the wildlife that you will be working with or near

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Get vaccinated for any disease you may be exposed to, if one is available and you are eligible

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Stand upwind of animals and specimens if working outdoors

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Work in well-ventilated indoor environments

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Clean and disinfect surfaces, objects, animal housing, and equipment regularly

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Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer regularly

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Not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands

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Not eat, drink, or smoke near animals

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Wash and change clothes and footwear and shower after work

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## **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Mark a "yes" if you have:

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Dedicated clothing and footwear, and wash them regularly

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Impervious gloves (for example, latex or nitrile) if you have contact with animals, feces, urine, or anything that might be contaminated

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Cut-resistant gloves if there is a risk of animal bites or scratches

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Impervious coveralls if handling larger animals

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Eye protection (for example, tight-fitting goggles or face shield) if there is a risk of dust, sprays or droplets being created through splashing

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An appropriate mask (preferably a fit-tested N95 respirator) if handling infected animals or performing tasks where aerosols could be created

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Safely discarded disposable personal protective equipment after use (for example, in a sealed plastic bag)

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Washed reusable personal protective equipment after use

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## Reporting wildlife diseases

Mark a “yes” if you know how to:

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Notify the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) if an animal being cared for or controlled by the workplace is suspected of having a reportable disease

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Report sick or dead land (wild) animals outside of the workplace, to a veterinarian, relevant animal health authority, or the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative. For aquatic animals, report to Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

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Report suspected or confirmed human wildlife-related illness to your employer

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Seek medical care if needed (indicate what your work exposes you to)

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Consult a health professional and inquire about workers' compensation or insurance claims and report to the occupational health and safety regulator if you have a zoonotic disease

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## Avian Influenza or “Bird Flu”

### Control measures when working with or near wild birds, domestic poultry or mammals

Mark a “yes” if you have taken precautions to:

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Get vaccinated for seasonal influenza

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Avoid direct contact with wild birds, domestic poultry and mammals (particularly if they look sick), raw milk, carcasses and heavily contaminated environments

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Work outdoors or in well-ventilated screened indoor environments

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Clean and disinfect areas, tools, vehicles, and equipment that may be contaminated

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Use low-pressure water to wet dust, bedding, feathers and debris before cleaning

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Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer regularly (for example, after touching animals or objects and before eating)

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Not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands

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Not eat, drink, or smoke in areas where animals are kept

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Use dedicated clothing and footwear when working

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Wash and change clothes and footwear and shower after work

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Isolate and monitor sick animals

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Practise good biosecurity measures as outlined in the National Biosecurity Standards

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### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

If you have contact with wild birds, domestic poultry or mammals, feces, raw milk, or anything that might be contaminated, mark a "yes" if you have:

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Impervious gloves (for example, PVC, nitrile or rubber)

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Rubber boots or boot covers

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Impervious gowns or coveralls (ideally disposable)

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An appropriate mask (preferably a fit-tested N95 respirator)

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Eye protection (for example, tight-fitting goggles or a face shield) if there are droplets, splashing or spraying liquids, or dust in the air

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Safely discarded disposable personal protective equipment after use

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Cleaned and disinfected reusable personal protective equipment after use

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Followed the personal protective equipment requirements established by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency if involved in the clean-up or culling of infected animals or other outbreak control efforts

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### **Reporting animals suspected to be infected with avian influenza**

Mark a “yes” if you know how to:

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Report sick or dead poultry or other domestic birds and mammals to a veterinarian, the relevant animal health authority and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

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Report sick or dead wild birds to Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative or a relevant animal health authority

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Report sick or dead marine mammals to Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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### **Reporting suspected or confirmed human infections**

Mark a “yes” if you know how to:

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Report suspected or confirmed avian influenza infections to your employer

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Seek medical care if needed (indicate what your work exposes you to)

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Consult a health professional, inquire about workers’ compensation or insurance claims and report to the occupational health and safety regulator if you believe you may have avian influenza

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## Mosquitoes

### Control measures when working with or near mosquitoes

Mark a "yes" if you have taken precautions to:

Remove sources of stagnant water (for example, buckets and tires)

Work when mosquitoes are least active, when possible

Stay indoors and in cool environments, when possible

Apply mosquito repellent containing DEET or Icaridin

Use mosquito screens

Wear long sleeves and long pants that can protect against mosquito bites or treat clothing with permethrin

### Reporting mosquito-borne disease

Mark a "yes" if you have taken precautions to:

Report suspected or confirmed mosquito-borne illness to your employer

Seek medical care if needed

Consult a health professional, inquire about workers' compensation or insurance claims and report to the occupational health and safety regulator if you have a mosquito-borne disease

## Ticks

### Control measures when working with or near ticks

Mark a "yes" if you have taken precautions to:

Cut weeds and other vegetation on the worksite

Stay on well-cleared trails and maintained paths

Apply insect repellent containing DEET or Icaridin

Wear permethrin-treated work clothing

Wear closed-toe shoes

Tuck shirt into pants and pull socks over pant legs

Wear light-coloured long-sleeved shirts and pants

Tie back long hair

Check skin and clothes for ticks after working outdoors

Remove ticks you find on your skin or clothes as soon as possible

Shower or bathe after work

Put dry clothes in a dryer on high heat for at least 10 minutes

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If you wash your clothes, use hot water and dry on high heat

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## Reporting tick-borne diseases

### Reporting tick-borne diseases

Mark a "yes" if you know how to:

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Report suspected or confirmed tick-borne illness to your employer

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Seek medical care if needed

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Consult a health professional, inquire about workers' compensation or insurance claims and report to the occupational health and safety regulator if you have a tick-borne disease

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**Notes:**

## Resources

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/about-cfia/contact-us>

Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative

[https://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/report\\_and\\_submit.php](https://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/report_and_submit.php)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/contact/index-eng.htm>

How to remove and identify a tick

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/lyme-disease/removing-submitting-ticks-testing.html>

List of reportable diseases in land animals

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable>

Tick hiding spots on your body

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/top-10-tick-hiding-spots-body-poster.html>

National Biosecurity Standards

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/biosecurity/standards-and-principles>