

**The University of Tennessee
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Occupational Health Program**

HEPATITIS B, C, D, AND E VIRUS

- People at Risk:** Humans are the natural host for hepatitis B, C, D, and E viruses. Various nonhuman primates, particularly chimpanzees, can be infected experimentally, but only one case of natural infection has been reported.
- Transmission:** **Nonhuman primates acquire the disease from humans.**
- Symptoms:** Symptoms in an infected monkey are mild and symptoms include loss of appetite, and liver problems.
- Prevention:** Although natural infections of nonhuman primates with hepatitis B, C, D, and E viruses are **extremely** rare, personnel should follow appropriate precautions when handling nonhuman primates.
1. Avoid percutaneous or permucosal exposure to blood and body fluids.
 2. Handwashing and proper disposal of feces for hepatitis E.
- Hepatitis B vaccinations for humans are available to protect nonhuman primates.
- Note:** Humans working with human tissue or body fluids may be at an increased risk of contracting Hepatitis. Hepatitis B immunizations are available and Universal Precautions (a separate handout) should be followed. If working with human tissue or body fluids, employees are advised to discuss blood born pathogens with their health care professional and safety officer.