



# SAFE GUARDING YOUR WORKPLACE FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious agents may be associated with a workplace and specific work activity, resulting in an occupational infection, the table below lists some of the worker groups and associated infections.

Worker Group	Occupational Infections/Infectious Agent
Health-care workers	HIV, Hepatitis B, tuberculosis, SARS, Viral haemorrhagic fevers
Veterinarians and farm workers	Zoonoses including cryptosporidiosis, leptospirosis, salmonella infections, Q fever, rabies, anthrax, schistosomiasis
Abattoir workers	Nipah virus, Streptococcus suis, trichinosis, Q fever
Sex workers	Sexually transmitted infections
Forest rangers, forestry workers	Lyme disease, rabies, plague
Construction workers, demolition workers	Histoplasmosis
Miners, sandblasters, grinders, stonecutters, quarry workers, ceramic and foundry workers	Silicotuberculosis
Rice farmers	Melioidosis, "sawah itch"
Military personnel	Biological warfare agents including smallpox, anthrax and plague

\*Adapted from Behrman 2011<sup>2</sup>

The workplace should provide comprehensive health education programmes on risk of exposure and common routes of transmission. In addition, an effective occupational surveillance for prioritized workplace infections should be in place.

## Recommendation

"Early identification of infectious agents and risk assessment are key to preventing the spread of infectious diseases in the workplace"

<sup>1</sup> Aw TC, Blair I. Occupational infections. Infectious Diseases. 2010:715.

<sup>2</sup> Behrman AJ. Occupational infections. Occupational Emergency Medicine. 2011 Feb 11:46-74.