

British Divers Marine Life Rescue

Zoonotic infections from marine mammals

To whom it may concern

The person presenting this letter is a trained volunteer 'Marine Mammal Medic' for the charity British Divers Marine Life Rescue.

On this occasion this person has reported feeling unwell after coming into direct contact with a stranded cetacean and may have been exposed to a pathogen(s) with zoonotic potential.

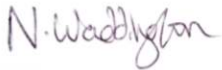
Differential diagnoses that may need to be considered include infections with:

- *Brucella ceti*
- *Leptospira*.
- *Mycobacterium* species (e.g. *M. marinum*, *M. pinnipedii*)
- Influenza.
- *Salmonella* spp.
- *Campylobacter* spp.
- *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae*

The advice of the **Brucella Reference Unit (BRU)** is that it should be contacted (0151 706 4410) in the event of any incident which may carry a significant risk of Brucella infection. It also advises:

1. **Post exposure prophylaxis (PEP)** should be offered to all personnel classified as high risk. Doxycycline 100mg bid for 21 days is recommended. PEP for individual cases can be discussed with either Dr Nick Beeching, Dr Pankaj Lal or Dr Alessandro Gerada (0151 706 4410) at the BRU.
2. **Serological testing** is required on all personnel thought to have had high risk exposures. Baseline serum samples (0 weeks) with follow-up serum samples at 6 and 24 weeks are recommended. BRU will provide a specific 'ILOG' reference number which should be included on the request form for all samples sent following the exposure.

Thank you for your attention,



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Veterinary Support Coordinator
British Divers Marine Life Rescue

References

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Hunt, T.D., Ziccardi, M.H., Gulland, F.M., Yochem, P.K., Hird, D.W., Rowles, T. and Mazet, J.A., 2008. Health risks for marine mammal workers. *Diseases of aquatic organisms*, 81(1)



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British Divers Marine Life Rescue is an internationally recognised marine animal rescue organisation, UK based and a Registered Charity. The aims of the organisation are to provide a rescue service for all marine wildlife, to provide support to all existing rescue centres and to develop new methods of treatment, transport and care. We welcome donations via www.justgiving.com/bdmlr