



WRHA REGIONAL FACILITIES MANAGEMENT GUIDELINE

Managing Health Hazards Associated with Pigeon Excrement

1.0 **PURPOSE:**

- 1.1 To prevent exposure of histoplasmosis and other diseases from contact with pigeon feces. The most probable exposures to disease may be from maintenance activity, which requires cleanup of an excessive build-up of bird droppings on building surfaces or around HVAC equipment.
- 1.2 Before any cleaning takes place, the location of the clean up must be inspected by the Facility Management department to ensure the operation of any systems (e.g. fresh-air intakes to building) in proximity to the clean up area will not be affected.
- 1.3 Workers shall be informed about potential disease and the precautions that are required. It is important to follow the required process in order not to contaminate oneself or spread contamination either throughout the building or even outside the building.

2.0 **GUIDELINES:**

2.1 **Cleanup and Removal Procedures:**

2.1.1 **Breathing Protection:**

- A NIOSH approved half-face respirator with high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter for screening particles of 0.3-micron size. Dust and N95 particle masks will not provide adequate protection and are not approved for this use. Respirators shall be used in accordance with NIOSH 42 CFR Part 84.

2.1.2 **Protective Clothing:**

- Wear disposable coveralls c/w hoods, impermeable gloves, goggles and rubber boots. Seal the glove/sleeve and boot/leg interfaces with duct tape before entering the worksite. Before leaving the worksite, vacuum boots and gloves using a HEPA vacuum, walk to an excrement free area, remove the protective clothing and place it in plastic bags prior to removing respiratory protection. Treat all disposable clothing believed to be contaminated with disease agents as an infectious waste.

2.1.3 **Removal/Cleaning Procedures**

- Air supply fans for the building will be shut down if in close proximity to the contamination.
- Provide barricades and signage to keep the public clear of the work site during all operations.
- **NO DRY SWEEPING.**
- The feces shall be sprayed with water prior to removal to prevent the debris and any pathogens from becoming airborne. Wetting to be done with a low-velocity mist spray. Avoid using high pressure and/or a concentrated steam such as a hose nozzle, which may scatter the droppings before they can be adequately wetted. This may take several hours or more of repeated spraying to penetrate the mass of droppings completely.
- Once properly wetted, the feces, eggs and nests are shoveled into doubled 3mil or thicker plastic bags and closed securely.
- The outside of the garbage bags should be rinsed off before they are placed in a disposal container.
- An anti-microbial/fungal solution shall be sprayed on the clean surfaces to kill any remaining fungus and bacteria.
- All shovels, trash cans or other equipment shall be cleaned and washed



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with bleached water or anti-microbial/fungal solution before they are put away. The protective clothing and dust mask will be used while cleaning the equipment.

- Non-disposable protective clothing (i.e. rubber boots) shall be cleaned and washed with bleach water or anti-microbial/fungal solution.
- All disposable protective clothing shall be disposed of in sealed plastic bags.
- Bags containing waste and disposable clothing shall be transported to landfill for proper disposal.

2.2 MANAGING & PREVENTING RE-OCCURRENCE

2.2.1 Clean up should be followed by pigeon-proofing the structure to achieve maximum population control. Anti-Roost Systems such as spring wires or netting are acceptable.

3.0 REFERENCES:

3.1 Centre for Disease Control and Prevention website www.cdc.gov

3.2 Health Canada, Pest Management Regulatory Agency website www.pmr-arla.gc.ca

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