



MANOR
COLLEGE



Program of Veterinary Technology

Examples of Risks in Clinical Laboratories

Zoonotic Infections

A wide range of diseases may be spread from animals to humans. These diseases include, but are not limited to, salmonellosis, brucellosis, leptospirosis, rabies, toxoplasmosis, dermatophytosis, viral conjunctivitis, cat scratch fever, psittacosis, and tuberculosis. Students who, for whatever reason, are immuno-suppressed are particularly vulnerable to contracting an illness spread from an animal. They may also be more likely to contract illness from classmates. The unborn fetus may be vulnerable to exposure to toxoplasmosis.

Trauma

Students can be bitten, scratched, stepped on, kicked, and shoved by animals. They are vulnerable to back injury when lifting heavy animals or during the restraint of non-cooperative animals.

Anesthetic Gases

Exposure to anesthetic gases will occur during the on-campus surgery and anesthesiology laboratory, and during the off-campus clinical externships.

Teratogens

Cytotoxic compounds, sterilizing, cleaning, preserving and fixing agents and infectious microbes such as toxoplasmosis are all examples of substances that can cause birth defects in the unborn fetus. These are present in the clinical veterinary environment.

Hormones and Drugs

Contact with hormones such as prostaglandins and progesterones can have harmful effects on the normal reproductive cycle of women. Contact with drugs such as chloramphenicol is linked with aplastic anemias in humans.

Ionizing radiation and other sources of radioactive material

Students will be exposed to x-rays, and radioactive markers used in scintigraphy and other special imaging. They may also be exposed to fluoroscopy, and CT imaging.

Pregnancy and Health Risk Protocol:

1. Students and employees who become pregnant, immuno-suppressed or have health conditions that predispose them to risk during any part of their involvement in the Program of Veterinary Technology at Manor College, are strongly encouraged to notify the Program Director.
2. Students and employees should make an appointment to meet with the Program Director to discuss health risks, plans for continuation in the program, confidentiality issues, etc.
3. A Pregnancy and Health Risk Notification and Release form must be completed by the student and employee, which documents that the student or employee is cognizant of the hazards associated with involvement in the Program of Veterinary Technology and has made an informed decision in conjunction

4. Pregnant students and employees must be under the care of a physician in order to remain active in the program.
5. Students and employees are responsible for keeping the Program Director informed of relevant changes in their health status.
6. Students and employees accept responsibility for using appropriate safety measures to protect their own health (and that of the fetus, if pregnant).