

Information and visitors declaration

High Containment Unit

Houtribweg 39, Lelystad



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



Wageningen Bioveterinary Research investigates highly contagious livestock diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), avian influenza (AI) and classical swine fever (CSF). In case of an outbreak of such animal diseases the institute operates as an emergency organization: it advises the government and carries out the tests to confirm or rule out the presence of the virus in blood or organ samples.

Viruses can easily be spread. FMD virus e.g. can spread via hands, clothing, contaminated materials and through the air. To be able to work safely with viruses the institute uses a High Containment Unit (HCU). This unit is specially designed and secured to prevent infectious particles from escaping the building. The HCU is divided in various areas with different levels of safety measures.

You only may enter the HCU after you have seen the safety instructions presentation, read this instruction paper and have signed the declaration on the back of this document. A copy of the declaration is handed to you to take home. During your stay in the HCU you are accompanied by a host. He (or she) is responsible for your guidance and any questions you might have.

Negative pressured areas

The negative pressured areas are fully isolated from the outside world; the air pressure is slightly below atmospheric pressure. Air handling takes place via special filters to circumvent release of any virus in the environment. Waste and sewage are sterilized before released outside the building. In the negative pressured areas you wear white, blue or orange clothing provided by the institute.

Entering the negative pressured area

Remove your watch and any jewellery and leave these in one of the lockable cabinets in the changing room. You are allowed to bring your glasses and contact lenses into this area. If you have any visible jewellery that cannot be removed, you need to get it taped at the reception desk

before entering. Only after permission from your host you may bring material into this area. Please check whether the required materials are not already available in the area.

Before entering change all your clothing (including underwear and socks) for the clothing provided by the institute. Open the door of the airlock and close it behind you. You do not have to take a shower before entering. After closing the first door you open the second door labelled 'IN' and enter the negative pressured area. Please also close the second door behind you. Your host is waiting for you in the locker room you just entered. Here you take a pair of shoes from the racks. Your host will take you to a second small confined area into the central passage to enter the laboratories.

Leaving the negative pressured area

Your host will make sure you follow the required procedures. He or she will also take care of transportation of material – if any – outside the building via special airlocks, using decontamination and sterilization procedures. Materials are sterilized, for example, with steam at 134 °C, formaldehyde, or sodium hydroxide. The institute cannot be held responsible for any damage that may occur to personal belongings that are sterilized, unless gross negligence can be proved.

In the locker room before entering the showers, you put back the shoes in the racks, undress completely and place the clothing in the laundry bag. Wash your hands and glasses and remove any used tape. Enter one of the shower cubicles after you have made sure that the red light above the door is not lit and you checked through the eyehole that the shower is free and the second door is closed. Close the door behind you and shower for at least five minutes. Soap yourself well and shampoo your hair. After all five lights are turned off five minutes have passed and you can stop showering. You exit via the other door (the one not labelled 'IN') and close the door behind you. You are back in the changing room where you started your visit to the negative pressured area. Towels can be found in the racks. After you are dressed back in your own clothes, please contact your host.

For a period of 72 hours you are not allowed to go just anywhere you please!

Visitors Declaration

The undersigned is aware of the fact that he/she may only enter the negative pressured area under certain conditions; and herewith declares that he/she:

1. has taken note of the rules that apply to entering the negative pressured area;
2. will fully comply with the applicable regulations.

Also the undersigned declares that he/she

3. is not the owner of FMD-susceptible animals (such as cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and deer);
4. does not live in a location where FMD-susceptible animals are kept*;
5. does not live on a commercial poultry farm.
6. agrees with the storage of the personal data below for 1 year. This data will enable a shortened registration procedure on your next visit. In addition, WBVR offers the possibility to inform you in case of a calamity.

and within the quarantine period of 72 hours:

6. will not have direct physical contact with FMD-susceptible animals, nor to approach these animals to within less than 5 meters;
8. will not visit locations where FMD-susceptible animals are kept;
9. will not come into contact with materials being used for the care of FMD-susceptible animals;
10. will not visit a commercial poultry farm.

In case of doubt or questions, the undersigned will contact the HC Supervision bureau at number: +31-320-238840. In case the quarantine regulations are violated by mistake, he/she will immediately notify the HC Supervision bureau.

** A location with FMD-susceptible animals means, among others, farms, petting zoos, zoos, livestock markets, circuses, etc., but also addresses where FMD-susceptible animals are kept for hobby (e.g. dwarf goats, potbellied pig, deer, etc.). In addition, this includes enclosed areas where FMD-susceptible animals are present (pastures, other fenced or otherwise enclosed areas). If in doubt, stay away!*

Please remember your 72 hours of quarantine!

Examples of animals that are susceptible to FMD:



More information

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