

FactSheet

Animal Exposure Risk Assessment (ARA)

The Animal Exposure Risk Assessment (ARA) is a health risk assessment for anyone working with animals at USC. It is required to be completed prior to conducting research on any protocols involving animals. The ARA gives you the option of being evaluated by a healthcare provider or you may choose to opt out.

How does it work?

After you complete the ARA online at <https://redcap.sc-ctsi.org/surveys/?s=7YT83XXAFD>, the Occupational Medicine physician will review and evaluate your personal risk for animal work.

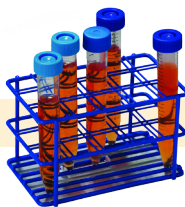


Who needs to fill out an ARA?

Anyone who works with animals at USC needs to complete the ARA. NOTE: The ARA is a key part of the Laboratory Animal Allergen Prevention Program.

FACT

About one third of people working with animals will develop allergies*



How do I get my results?

The Occupational Medicine physician will evaluate your personal health risks of working with animals and will determine if you are cleared for animal work, or if further evaluation is recommended.



What if I need further evaluation?

If further evaluation is recommended, you will be seen by a physician with Keck Internal Medicine. At this evaluation, you and the internal medicine physician will discuss your potential health risks working with animals.

What I need to do...

- ✓ Visit the EH&S [Occupational Medicine Program](#) web page for more information.
- ✓ Read the instructions and fill out the ARA form online at <https://redcap.sc-ctsi.org/surveys/?s=7YT83XXAFD>.
- ✓ Receive your results.
- ✓ Contact EH&S at biosafety@usc.edu for more information.

Do I have to respond?

Yes. Whether you choose to be evaluated or opt out of evaluation, EH&S needs a response from you to **document your decision**. This is a requirement for working with animals at USC.

Is my information safe?



Yes. REDCap software ensures privacy for participants and is HIPAA-compliant. Once information is entered online, a licensed Occupational Medicine physician at Sharp Rees-Stealy (SRS), the Occupational Medicine Healthcare provider, will review your risk assessment.

NOTE: USC/EH&S obtains confirmation through REDCap for all employee forms.

Additional Information

EH&S [Occupational Medicine Program](#) web page

[Animal Risk Assessment \(ARA\) Form online](#)

[Animal Allergy Fact Sheet](#)

[Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals \[NRC, 2011\]](#)

* *Laboratory Animal Allergy: An Update*, Robert K. Bush and Gregg M. Stave, *ILAR J* (2003) 44 (1): 28-51. doi: 10.1093/ilar.44.1.28