



**CARIBBEAN PRIMATE RESEARCH CENTER  
MEDICAL SCIENCES CAMPUS  
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO**



**Biosafety Standard Operating Procedures  
at Cayo Santiago Field Station**

## **1. Boot Dip Tubs Disinfection Protocol**

**The most effective method available for controlling the transmission of pathogens in Cayo Santiago on footwear is the use of dedicated footwear combined with disinfecting boot dip tubs for the footwear.** Foot dips are a demonstrable and highly visible sign that biosecurity and disease prevention is taken seriously and more importantly they help prevent disease transfer onto and around the Cayo Santiago facility.

The solution to use in the boot dip tubs should be a product that is highly effective against a wide range of pathogens and resist inactivation due to organic material contamination. Disinfectants that fill this need include iodine solutions, quaternary ammonium solutions, lime powder, chlorine solutions. Footwear should be changed to dedicated footwear when traveling to Cayo Santiago.

The process of boot disinfection using a solution can be accomplished in the following stages.

1. Boot disinfection should be performed before entering Cayo Santiago and before leaving the island. There will be a boot dip tub on the dock at Cayo Santiago next to the boat.
2. Removal of gross contaminants from the boots with a brush should be done (dried feces, mud, sand, etc).
3. Use of a detergent solution in the foot dip tub to remove remaining debris on boots and provide disinfection. There should be a contact time of at least 20 seconds for each boot.
4. Once this process is finished personnel can enter or exit the island.
5. The same process will be repeated when personnel leave Cayo Santiago to return to the dock on Punta Santiago.
6. Boots should be designated for the sole use on Cayo Santiago. This footwear should not be used to enter the Punta Santiago facilities or any other area such as restaurants, homes, etc... Personnel should have additional footwear to enter other facilities. The boots should remain in the Punta Santiago Shop or in a closed box outside your home.

## 2. Personal Protective Equipment and Proper Personal Hygiene

Zoonoses are diseases of animals that are transmissible to humans. There may be a significant exposure hazard to zoonoses in field research sites such as Cayo Santiago. Prevention of exposure to these animal-related illnesses requires proper usage of appropriate protective equipment while working on site and while handling animals; in addition to good personal hygiene (i.e. hand washing). Risks of exposure and risk of potentially becoming infected may occur through bites, scratches that break skin, aerosol droplet, mucosal secretion, feces or urine that make contact with blood, and/or mucous membrane.

The following processes should be followed to reduce risk of exposure and to maintain good hygiene practices.

### 1. Protective Equipment to use while out in the field:

- Always use protective eyewear while out in the field. .
- Always carry a hand disinfectant, and use it periodically while out in the field.

### 2. Protective Equipment to use while handling animals:

- Always use protective eyewear, gloves, and mask while handling animals.

### 3. Personal Hygiene at Cayo Santiago:

- Always use the bathroom when in need. NEVER urinate or defecate out in the field.
- Always disinfect hands before entering and exiting bathroom.
- Expectorating out in the field is prohibited.
- Always disinfect hands before eating.
- Always disinfect hands prior to exiting Cayo Santiago.

I \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the above SOP. I agree to contact a Supervisor if I have any question or if I plan to make modifications to this procedure. NOTE: The facility Colony Manager or the Resident Scientist must also sign this document.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

CPRC-Staff Signature