**Zebrafish Zoonoses**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Zebra Fishz |  |

***Mycobacterium***

*Mycobacterium marinum* and *M. fortuitum* are nontuberculous mycobacterium species that affect fish. Humans acquire infection by direct contact with infected animals or contaminated water. Infection is rare and more commonly occurs with exposure to minor trauma. A localized granulomatous nodule appears at the site of infection. In immunocompromised individuals, lymphadenopathy can occur followed by arthritis and osteomyelitis. Infection is treated with long-term oral antibiotics.

***Aeromonas***

*Aeromonas hydrophila* is a bacterium that occurs in freshwater and brackish environments. The disease is transmitted by infection of open wounds or ingestion of contaminated water or food. The bacteria causes septicemia in fish, and in humans most commonly causes gastroenteritis or local wound infections. The disease is treatable with oral antibiotics.

***Allergic Reactions to Fish***

Human sensitivity to fish proteins in the laboratory setting is rare. It remains possible however, to become sensitized to fish proteins through inhalation or skin contact.

**How to Protect Yourself**

* Enroll in the UWM Occupational Health Program for Personnel with Laboratory Animal Contact.
* Follow posted Personal Protective Equipment requirements. Never wear protective equipment outside of animal areas.
* Wash your hands. The single most effective preventative measure that can be taken is regular hand washing. Wash hands and arms after handling any animal or any related equipment, and never drink or eat in the animal rooms.

For more information: http://www.cdc.gov