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CONSENT FORM

“BRITISH COLUMBIA EMERGING ZONOSIS SENTINEL ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE”

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The results of this research will be used for a PhD graduate thesis, which is a public document. No identifying information will be published in the thesis or any report or manuscript that comes from this research.

Sponsor: National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)



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Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to evaluate the potential contribution of private practitioners to emerging zoonosis surveillance. You are being invited to take part in this research study because you submit at least one sample per year to the Animal Health Centre in Abbotsford.

Study Procedures:

A sample of animal health workers in BC, sentinels, will report data weekly throughout the one year study period (January – December, 2009) on the number and species of animals they encounter, presumptive diagnoses and reasons for laboratory submission or lack thereof. Data will be entered by sentinels into a web-based study database, taking no more than one hour once a week.

Potential Risks:

Sentinels may experience some inconvenience associated with the time needed to submit their weekly reports.

Potential Benefits:

The main benefit is for public health in BC; the results for this research will aid in the development of an evidence-based emerging zoonosis surveillance program in the province.

Sentinels may benefit by networking with fellow practitioners interested in emerging zoonosis surveillance. Also, all participants will receive preliminary and final results from this study

Confidentiality:

All information will be securely stored under the direction of the British Columbia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) and Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA). The study database will be safely stored on the researcher's password-protected computer and all personal identifiers will be destroyed after analysis. These precautions are necessary as potentially identifying data such as the veterinarian clinic name and postal code, as well as the species/breed, age, and sex of the animal will be in the database.

No identifying information will be released in any form – report, manuscript or thesis chapter. If geographic region of submission is shown on a map, the units will be aggregated so that no



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particular veterinarian or animal health worker submitting the sample can be identified. For diagnosis-specific maps, extra care will be taken to ensure no possible identification can be made. All results will be presented to the expert panel involved in developing this study and to participating sentinels prior to publication.

Once analyses are complete, the study database will be stored for 5 years on a secure, firewalled server of the UBC Centre of Disease Control in a password-protected file.

Remuneration/Compensation:

The sentinels recruited for this study will either be paid \$1,000 at the end of the study period or be invited to a meeting to discuss the preliminary results (up to \$1,000 of costs will be covered) with the study team and other sentinels.

Contact for information about the study:

If you have any questions or desire further information with respect to this study, you may contact Linda Vrbova at 604-720-2422 or vrboval@interchange.ubc.ca.

Contact for concerns about the rights of research subjects:

If you have any concerns about your treatment or rights as a research subject, you may contact the Research Subject Information Line in the UBC Office of Research Services at 604-822-8598 or if long distance e-mail to RSIL@ors.ubc.ca.



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Consent:

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you may refuse to participate or withdraw from the study at any time without jeopardy to your employment.

Your signature below indicates that you have received a copy of this consent form for your own records.

Your signature indicates that you consent to participate in this study.

Sentinel Signature

Date

Upon completion:

PLEASE FAX THIS FORM TO 604-660-0197

OR

SCAN AND EMAIL TO INFO@EZSURVEILLANCE.NET