reaction to the tuberculin skin test.

Aeromonad organisms are facultative anaerobic, gram-negative rods. These organisms can produce ulcerative stomatitis and fatal hemorrhagic septicemia in snakes. Humans infected with Aeromonas may show a variety of clinical signs, but the two most common syndromes are gastroenteritis (nausea, vomiting, and cliarrhea) and localized wound infections. Again, infections are more common and serious in the immunocompromised individual.

Other pathogens that can be spread through working with reptiles include Campylobacter, Klebsiella, Enterobacter, Yersinia, Aspergilllus and Candida spp.; Edwardsiella tarda and Plesiomonas shigelloides; Zygomycosis, Phycomycosis, and Mucormycosis spores from saprophytic fungi that are common isolates from reptile gastrointestinal tracts. Reptiles may be transport hosts for Gnathostomiasis. For information about signs and symptoms of illness and disease in reptiles and humans, see Zoonoses of Fish, Amphibians and Reptiles.

Human sensitivity to reptile allergens (proteins which causes an allergic reaction in people) in the laboratory setting is unknown. However, it is reasonable to assume, like with amphibians and fish, some people may become sensitized to reptile proteins through inhalation or skin contact.

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protective gloves when handling bedding, animal tissues, body fluids, and waste. Wear dedicated protective clothing such as an apron or lab coat when handling animals. Launder the soiled clothing separate from your personal clothes. When in the field, change clothing as soon as possible after exposure to reptiles and/or their habitats.

Cover abraded skin, cuts, scrapes or sores and do not allow wound contact with reptiles or contaminated housing materials. Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands or contaminated gloves. Never eat, drink, use tobacco products, or apply makeup in animal facilities or while handling animals.

Keep animal areas dean and disinfect equipment after using it on animals or in animal areas. Use cleaning techniques that do not aerosolize dirty water or other materials.

If you are injured on the job when handling reptiles or contaminated housing materials, promptly report the accident to your supervisor, even if it seems relatively minor. Gean any minor cut or abrasion immediately with antibacterial soap, and protect it from dirt