

CZAR – QX Room Use Protocol

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

Purpose:

- To prevent transport of pathogens out of the QX via water splashes
- To prevent bringing new pathogens into the QX
- To prevent zoonotic infections

Equipment:

- Key: Pick up from CZAR office. Lock the door and return key to office when done.
- Booties: Put on before entering the QX. Take off and discard before exiting the QX.
- Gloves: Put on before entering the QX. Take off and discard, then wash your hands just before exiting the QX.
- Apron: An apron is required when working with tanks to prevent splashes on clothes from exiting the QX. There is an apron hanging on the hood in the QX.
- Face Mask: is suggested when water may spray (e.g., cleaning valves and tubes), or scrubbing tanks.

General Cleanliness

Fish Water is a transmission route for pathogens:

- As much as possible, work carefully to avoid water spills and spray.
- Clean up spills as you work to prevent contaminating other equipment.
- Use and dispose of paper towels.
- Spray bench surfaces, floor, and faucet handles with 70% Alcohol and allow to evaporate.

Dishes need to be rinsed clean of biofilms in the QX:

- Rinse all mating tank parts and fish tanks, lids and baffles well.
- Stack dishes on the dish cart to dry for later sterilization.
- Nets and baby baffles: Rinse with running water and place on dish cart to dry.

Getting Embryos out of the QX

- Set up mating tanks in the QX using only QX mating tanks. (Do not bring in more tanks).
- Collect eggs and rinse into petri dishes in the QX. Label your dishes: Name, date, time.
- Keep the petri dishes in the QX on a paper towel until 6-24 hpf.
- Exit QX: remove gloves, wash hands, dry hands but save the paper towel, open door, use paper towel to remove booties and place in trash, discard towel. Retrieve key and lock door. Return key to office.
- At 6–24 hpf, enter QX. Spray end of dish cart near the door with 70% EtOH.
- Treat embryos using the Bleaching protocol followed by the Ovadine protocol. (30-40 minutes)
- Rinse embryos into a clean petri dish on a clean dry surface.
- Put a clean sheet of paper towel on the cleaned end of the dish cart near the door.

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- Put the petri dishes on the towel on the cart. These petri dishes can exit the QX. After doffing PPE and leaving the QX, you can reach in and get your petri dishes.

Getting Adult Fish out of the QX

Live fish do not leave the QX. Ever.

Removing Dead Fish from the QX

Single Dead Fish:

- If you find a dead fish in one of your tanks:
 - Prop open a small zip-lock biohazard bag
 - Net the dead fish out with a clean narrow net, stick the net into the bag and invert it to deposit the fish in the bag
 - Place the net in the dirty net bin, seal the zip-lock, and place the bag on a paper towel on the end of the dirty dish cart.

Icing Fish:

- Before entering the QX, scoop ice into a clean fish tank (*please do not* take mating tanks into the QX). Bring this tank into the QX when you enter. After you are done with it, rinse the tank and put it on the dish cart in the QX.
- Use the ice from the fish tank to set up an ice bath using a QX mating tank.
- Ice the fish for at least 10-20 minutes. (See CZAR Icing Fish Protocol for details).
- Wash and scrub off debris from emptied fish tanks, lids, and baffles while fish are icing.
- Open a small zip-lock biohazard bag,
- Lift out the tank insert with the dead fish and pour them into the bag over the sink.
- Dry any spilled water on the outside of the bag with a paper towel, securely close the zip-lock, and place the bag on a clean paper towel on the end of the dirty dish cart.
- Rinse out the mating tanks.
- Clean up any spilled water and spray surfaces down with 70% EtOH.
- Take off your booties and gloves, wash your hands and exit the QX.
- Put a clean glove on one hand and use it to pick up the bag on the end of the cart.
- Reach in and get the key, and re-lock the QX door with the non-gloved hand.
- Open the freezer with non-gloved hand and put the fish + bag in the dead fish bucket.
- Remove glove, wash hands again.
- Return the key to the Office.