

Occupational  
Health and Safety

Field Visit Report

Page 1 of 2

OHS Case ID: **8947FKMRHXG**  
Field Visit no: **8947FKMRHXG-8947-FV001** Visit Date: **2026-JUN-16** Field Visit Type: **INITIAL**

Workplace Identification: **WESTERN UNIVERSITY** Notice ID:  
**1151 RICHMOND STREET, LONDON, ON CA N6A 3K7**

Telephone: **(519) 661-2111** JHSC Status: **Active** Work Force #: **20000** Completed %:

Persons Contacted: **Courtney Voss, Registered Biological Safety Officer; Jessica Churcher, Animal Care Tech (Worker); Heather Tatnowski-Garner, Operation Supervisor.**

Visit Purpose: **To investigate an occupational illness reported by the employer.**

Visit Location: **1393 Western Rd. London, On. H&S and Well-Being (HR) Office; Robarts Research Building Room TA1225.**

Visit Summary: **No orders issued.**

**Detailed Narrative:**

The employer contacted the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) to report an occupational illness. Event ID 260708709-EVS.

This inspector attended this workplace with MLITSD Dr. Marina Afanasyeva, Medical Consultant; MLITSD Valentina Parker, Infection Prevention and Control Specialist; MLITSD Jessica Zehnal, Infection Prevention and Control Specialist and MLITSD Andrew Russell.

MLITSD staff requested information regarding the University's policies on air quality in and around the Research facilities, as well as respiratory protection measures when working with animals.

Western University provided the following documents via email on June 11, 2026:

- Animal Allergy Reduction Guidelines - 2026
- Respiratory protective equipment program -2025
- Affected worker training and fit test records

Affected worker was contacted by inspector prior to this visit.

**MLITSD Staff's Discussions / Findings and Actions:**

A Joint Health and Safety Worker member was not available at the time of this visit.

It was reported that there is no air quality assessment available for the area where exposure to allergens occurred, however, a copy of the Robarts Research Institute air distribution report for the area was provided by the employer.

On May 26 2026, the employer submitted a report of an occupational illness to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD), involving a worker.

The following information was reported:

- On April 23, 2026, the worker reported symptoms of an allergic reaction to Western University.
- On May 26, 2026, allergies to mice and rats was confirmed by allergist.

Met with the individuals contacted and discussed the purpose of the visit.

Clarified the information provided by the employer and gathered additional details.

Physical Inspection Robarts Research Institute Room TA 1225.

It was reported by those contacted that workers entering designated areas are required to wear N95 masks, Tyvek suits, and hair nets.

**MLITSD Staff's Comments - Physical Inspection:**

While visiting the lab space the following was observed.

Not all hand washing stations were properly stocked with hand paper towel. Handwashing sinks that were stocked with paper towel, did

Recipient	Inspector Data	Worker Representative
Name <u>COURTNEY VOSS</u>	<b>Raul I. Rivas</b> O.H.S.A. & B.O.S.T.A INSPECTOR PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER	Name <u>Jessica Churcher</u>
Title <u>HEALTH + SAFETY CONSULTANT</u>	217 York Street, 5th Floor, London, ON N6A 5P9 CMHSPLDNCompliance@ontario.ca Tel: (519) 933-5897 Fax: (519) 672-0268	Title <u>Worker</u>
Signature <u>C. Voss</u>	Signature <u>[Signature]</u>	Signature <u>[Signature]</u>

You are required under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to post a copy of this report in a conspicuous place at the workplace and provide a copy to the health and safety representative or the joint health and safety committee if any. Failure to comply with an order, decision or requirement of an inspector is an offence under Section 66 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. You have the right to appeal any order or decision within 30 days of the date of the order issued and to request suspension of the order or decision by filing your appeal and request in writing on the appropriate forms with the Ontario Labour Relations Board, 505 University Ave., 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5G 2P1. You may also contact the Board by phone at (416) 326-7500 or 1-877-339-3335 (toll free), mail or by website at <http://www.olrb.gov.on.ca/> for more information.

The Government of Ontario wants to hear from you. You can provide feedback on this visit at 1-888-745-8888

