



ZOONOTIC CONCERN

contagious ecthyma or orf

Cause: parapoxvirus

Occurrence in animals: primarily young small ruminants

Source in animals: skin vesicles and scabs

Exposure: direct contact

Symptoms:

- Animals:
 - vesicles and scabs around the mouth, lips, and nostrils of lambs, or on the udder and teats of milking females
- Humans:
 - skin blisters, pustules and scabs
 - usually resolve on their own
 - secondary bacterial infection can occur

Precautions:

- Good personal hygiene:
 - **WASH HANDS** after handling animals.
 - No eating, drinking, smoking, ... around animals and their environment.
- Wear gloves when handling sheep or their contaminated environment.
- Virus is very resistant to disinfectants and drying and can persist in the environment for a long time.
- Barn clothes and boots can carry microorganisms to other areas.

Additional information about contagious ecthyma can be found at:

http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/contagious_ecthyma.pdf

<http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/Documents/OHP/ORF.pdf>