

Health & Safety Bulletin



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Measles Outbreak Update



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An outbreak of measles which affected the University in Autumn 2016 has now been declared over. In total, there were 18 cases of measles, many of which involved our staff and students. The University worked closely with the Health Protection Team NHS Lothian to implement a response to minimise the spread of this highly infectious illness.

Over 1000 individuals received MMR vaccinations at clinics set up by the NHS, and facilitated by the University. Thanks to all those staff who were involved in this response, and in assisting those who were affected by the outbreak.

University Optometrists for DSE/VDU eye tests and prescription safety spectacles

Two new Optometrists have been added to the list of approved University Optometrists for DSE/VDU and prescription safety spectacles. They were chosen for their convenient locations as well as their competitive pricing and quality of service. They are as follows:

- Browns Opticians, Clerk Street and Portobello Road
- The Optician at Marchmont, Marchmont

They join Rodger and Smallridge who are now based at Golden Acre.

The procedure for obtaining a DSE/VDU eye test has also been simplified, with no requirement to contact the Health and Safety Department for an authorisation letter – authorisation is now via your University staff card.

Full details on these changes, contact details for each Optometrist and the new procedures are at <http://edin.ac/2hK1UW3> for DSE/VDU eye tests and <http://edin.ac/2iiyQlu> for prescription safety spectacles.



Revised Code of Practice on Transport of Radioactive Material

The transport of Radioactive Material is a complex area of regulation; this has been highlighted by the Radiation Protection Unit's Code of Practice 017 now entering its 3rd revision despite only being in existence for a couple of years! Revisions 1 & 2 were relatively minor but the 3rd revision includes a couple of key updates to:

a) Clarify the University's position on:

- The carriage of radioactive material on public transport,
- The carriage of Exempt radioactive material by any means of transport,
- The personal transport of radioactive material; and,

b) Incorporate recent guidance from the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) on emergency arrangements and security of transport movements involving radioactive material.

Further information and advice on the transport of radioactive material can be found at: <http://edin.ac/2iZUCi3>



PI/Managers/Supervisors training



At its meeting on 20th August 2014, the Central Management Group considered the issue of training for Principal Investigators/Managers/Supervisors and their staff/students when their work involved the possible exposure to laboratory animal allergens, and gave its full backing to the creation and delivery of mandatory training for this area of activity.

The Health and Safety Department have produced a suite of e-learning courses to fulfil this requirement which are accessible within the LEARN system. This suite comprises of three courses; 1. health and safety for Research Group Leaders (RGLs) / Principal Investigators (PIs) / Managers / Supervisors; 2. occupational health and laboratory animal allergens exposure; 3. respiratory protection equipment in relation to occupational hygiene. Working through the whole online course should take around 1.5 hours, though this does not need to be at one sitting! The pass mark in the assessment section is 100%, though candidates may retake the assessment as often as required, after referring back to the course materials.

This training has been successfully piloted by Biomedical Sciences in the Edinburgh Medical School, with all relevant candidates required to participate in the online courses identified, their participation and performance in the online competence assessments tracked, and appropriate records kept.

A circular was issued by Alastair Reid, Director of Health and Safety, to all relevant Heads of School, copied to School Safety Advisers and Directors of Professional Services, on 1st November 2016, disseminating this information and requesting that each School identify the cohort of people for their area who should undertake the courses and pass the competence assessments. In order to progress the rollout of this online training to relevant individuals, Schools should set up a system for tracking candidates through the online courses, and maintain appropriate training records. To assist Schools with the management of rolling out these courses, Alastair Reid also requested the name(s) of local contacts / co-ordinators to be sent to safetylearning@ed.ac.uk who will be contacted with relevant guidance directly.

Personal contamination monitoring

After working with radioactive material, the monitoring of both areas and persons for contamination is a key part of ensuring that persons who work with radioactive material are not receiving significant internal radiation doses and that no unnecessary radioactive waste is generated.

It has always been the case that the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) have required the University to keep records of its area contamination monitoring but, more recently, they have asked that the record is extended to cover personal contamination monitoring.

To reflect this change, the Radiation Protection Unit has updated RP Code of Practice 003 on Contamination Monitoring to include a new personal contamination monitoring record form.

Further information and advice on contamination monitoring can be found at: <http://edin.ac/2iZUCi3>



Contact Details

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Forthcoming Training Courses

- **Basic Course in Radiation Protection in Teaching and Research** - 8th and 15th March 2017 <http://edin.ac/1N4taCS>
- **Laser Safety** - 10th March 2017, <http://edin.ac/2j0dX2n>
- **Biological and Genetic Modification Safety** - 17th March 2017, Kings Buildings <http://edin.ac/2jPDStS> & 29th March 2017, Easter Bush <http://edin.ac/2j4kxRB>
- **Transport of Biological Material** - 23rd February 2017 <http://edin.ac/2jQb7NC>

For more information on H&S training courses go to www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/training