

**From:** [EHS JHSC](#)  
**To:** [ehsjhsc-l@listserv.utoronto.ca](mailto:ehsjhsc-l@listserv.utoronto.ca)  
**Subject:** June 2021 JHSC Newsletter  
**Date:** June 14, 2021 7:57:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [FS launches new website service alert subscription.msg](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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**\*Apologies for cross-posting\* We encourage JHSCs to provide/distribute the newsletter accordingly\***

Dear JHSC Members,

We would like to take the opportunity to discuss a few items,

**1. COVID-19 Wastewater Program at Large U of T Residences**

As part of the University's measures to help our community stay safe and healthy, we are piloting an early detection program to monitor for COVID-19 through regular testing of wastewater samples at large U of T residences. A benefit of targeted wastewater surveillance programs include: Focused monitoring of populations at higher risk for COVID-19 (congregate living) – can detect asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic individuals. Samples are pooled so they identify the SARS-CoV-2 virus, if present, at a community level. An alert of the virus' presence will trigger a response to deploy a mobile rapid antigen screening team to screen the affected community, with further qPCR testing for individuals that screen as 'presumptive positive'. Other measures may be taken on a case-by-case basis.

As part of a consortium across the province, the University has joined ranks with other institutions such as Ryerson University, University of Windsor, University of Waterloo and University of Ottawa that are using wastewater to help monitor and respond to the COVID-19 virus in our community. For more information, please see EHS webpage on [COVID-19 Wastewater Program at Large U of T Residences](#).

**2. Rapid Screening Pilot Project for Public-Facing Roles with High Interaction**

The University of Toronto has partnered with the Creative Destruction Lab's Rapid Screening Consortium to implement a ten-week voluntary Rapid Antigen Screening pilot program for select employees with public-facing roles with high in-person interactions on the St. George campus. Though not a replacement for a COVID-19 diagnosis, rapid antigen screening is a point-of-care screening tool to detect viral proteins (antigens) expressed by the COVID-19 virus.

We understand that there may be a lot of interest in this program from our community. Prioritization is based on work activity and discussions on eligible activities are on-going. More information will be posted at the link below when it is available.

This screening does not replace the lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) diagnostic testing administered through public health, and it is not a replacement for public health testing of symptomatic people. A person that receives a positive result from screening will require a PCR test to confirm COVID-19 diagnosis. For more information, please see EHS webpage on [Rapid Screening Pilot Project for Public-Facing Roles with High Interaction](#).

**3. 12 Ways U of T is Preparing for a Safe Return**

In preparing for the safe return of students, staff, faculty, and librarians this fall, the University of Toronto is taking a wide range of precautions to curtail the risk of COVID-19 transmission. For more information, please see [12 Ways U of T is Preparing for a Safe Return](#) in addition to the [Tri-Campus Caretaking Strategy for Return to the University](#) and the [Tri-Campus HVAC Strategy for Return to the University](#).

**4. Facilities & Services, Service Alert**

Facilities & Services has launched a new service alert feature (attached email), all can receive alerts for planned and unplanned services and shutdowns for your building — delivered straight to your inbox. (e.g. an alert when an elevator will be out of service). Subscribe to receive service alerts at: <https://www.fs.utoronto.ca/service-alerts/>.

5. **New JHSC Coordinator**

Elizabeth Huynh has recently joined EHS in the role of JHSC Coordinator. In this new role, Elizabeth will be working directly with our JHSCs to provide administrative support.

6. **JHSC Newsletter Webpage**

For your reference, all previously sent JHSC newsletter can be accessed [here](#).

7. **Water Maintenance Program and Testing for Presence of Legionella**

For more information on re-entry procedures including legionella testing, please see EHS' website on [Water Maintenance Program and Testing for Presence of Legionella](#) and [Potable Water Maintenance Program – Legionella FAQs](#). A new [Water Testing Schedule](#) was created and uploaded on the EHS webpage [Water Maintenance Program and Testing for Presence of Legionella](#). We would encourage interested JHSCs to check the schedule regularly for the most up-to-date information on testing in their building. EHS continues to work on the spreadsheet and ensure we have a functional process however, due to the duration and complexity of flushing a system and the required waiting time, there may be situations where re-testing is scheduled only a day or two in advance.

JHSC members who are interested in attending the beginning of testing may do so by emailing [ehs.jhsc@utoronto.ca](mailto:ehs.jhsc@utoronto.ca).

--- Ongoing Reminders ---

8. Type 3 Asbestos Abatement Work

Type 3 asbestos abatement air sampling results are available in the Asbestos Data website. For more information: [Type 3 Asbestos Abatement Information](#)

9. Updated Supplemental Inspection Checklist during COVID-19

The [Supplemental Inspection Checklist during COVID-19](#) has been updated. Kindly include these items during workplace inspection.

10. CUPE3902 JHSC Pay Request Forms, Bargaining Units 1 & 3

Please remember to submit the pay request form before the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month in which the JHSC activity occurs or by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the subsequent month if the JHSC activity occurs after the 10<sup>th</sup> of the prior month.

Also, please be sure to use the most up-to-date form [here](#) and submit electronically to [ehs.jhsc@utoronto.ca](mailto:ehs.jhsc@utoronto.ca) and [ilo@cupe3902.org](mailto:ilo@cupe3902.org) after it is approved by the Manager Co-Chair.

11. Listserv for JHSC members

If you have not subscribed to the listserv yet, please follow the instructions below.

1. Please send an email with your UTORONTO.CA email to [listserv@listserv.utoronto.ca](mailto:listserv@listserv.utoronto.ca).
2. In the body of the email please paste: **sub EHSJHSC-I firstname lastname**. Please replace **firstname lastname** with your first and last name. Leave the Subject Blank.



12. JHSC Minutes & Inspection Reports

If you have not uploaded all JHSC minutes/inspections reports to date, please do so immediately.

Minutes and inspection reports are to be uploaded to the “[My JHSC Module](#)”. A list of [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) is also available on this webpage, including a “[My JHSC Module Presentation](#)”.

If you experience problems with the module, please contact EHS JHSC ([ehs.jhsc@utoronto.ca](mailto:ehs.jhsc@utoronto.ca)).

13. Health and Safety Boards

EHS is conducting its annual audits of health and safety boards on our campuses and updating/removing applicable items. Please inform EHS when boards have been installed, relocated, or removed. A [list of required postings](#) (and links for download) is available from the EHS website.

Please feel free to connect with [Irene Tang](#), JHSC Manager, as always, anytime should you have questions or concerns.

Thank you,  
EHS JHSC