



New Items

Winter Term Update

Effective Monday, February 7, 2022, the University of Toronto will increase in-person teaching and activities across all our campuses and Faculties. For more information, please see [COVID-19 Planning Updates](#) on the UTogether webpage.

Update on Health & Safety and Workplace Violence Policy

We encourage the JHSCs to review the following policies regularly: [Policy with Respect to Workplace Harassment](#), [Policy with Respect to Workplace Violence](#), and [Health and Safety Policy](#).

Workplace Violence Risk Assessment

The University has prepared a written, University-wide risk assessment formalizing its assessment of the risks of workplace violence and mitigation strategies for identified risks. The Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) requires the University to assess the risks of workplace violence that may arise from the nature of the workplace, the type of work or the conditions of work. If the risk assessment is in writing, it must also be provided to the JHSCs. The University has over the years used a variety of means of assessing and mitigating risks of workplace violence. The University has conducted a review of all job categories/titles in order to develop a General University Workplace Violence Assessment for all positions across the University in University owned/operated workplaces. This assessment is intended to be at a high level, describing potential risks, and measures and procedures to mitigate those risks, that are broadly applicable. Divisions will continue assessing and implementing local measures where applicable. Employees are encouraged to discuss any specific workplace considerations with their supervisors. JHSCs are encouraged to review the attached [assessment](#). If you have any questions or comments please contact [EHS JHSC](#). For more information, please also refer to the [UofT Workplace Violence Program](#).

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Safety Training

The University offers numerous training courses for its employees, specific to their workplace context (Administration/Facilities & Lab Environments) and regularly updates the training courses on an ongoing basis. We encourage the JHSCs to review our training offerings relevant to their specific work and welcome the JHSCs to provide us with any feedback regarding training content.

If you have any questions regarding relevant training required for your specific work, please speak with your supervisor. If you have any questions regarding EHS-offered training courses and related University-developed training content, please contact [EHS JHSC](#).

Wastewater Testing

Please note, there is no observable wastewater testing as the water sample is taken by an auto sampler in the mechanical room that runs automatically, analysis is then completed off-site by a 3rd party lab. Additional information regarding wastewater collection is compiled and available on our [COVID-19 Wastewater Initiative at UofT Residences](#) webpage. Our community is invited to provide any feedback or comment at anytime. In addition, this information was provided through the [Monthly JHSC Newsletter – June 2021](#).

The City of Toronto also conducts their own wastewater surveillance. For more information, please see [COVID-19: Wastewater Surveillance – City of Toronto](#).

Legionella and Ventilation Testing

We encourage interested JHSCs to regularly check the Water Testing Schedule for the most up-to-date information on legionella testing in their building and to contact EHS JHSC if a JHSC worker member is interested in attending the beginning of legionella and/or ventilation testing.

With regards to the query about JHSC consultation and provision of reports for ventilation measurements, the type of measurements collected in the air audit report do not provide a direct measurement of COVID-19 transmissibility risk but are measurements that the University collects as part of regular building maintenance to verify that the relevant equipment is operating as expected. We understand that during the pandemic, staff, faculty and students may want more information about building maintenance related data and we are therefore sharing this information as requested and we invite JHSCs who wish to attend, when these measurements are taken, to contact EHS (ehs.office@utoronto.ca) for building level schedules.

Ventilation Information Request (by building)

As mentioned in previous communications, the University has developed and implemented a [Tri-campus HVAC Strategy](#) as part of an overall ventilation approach for both instructional and non-instructional spaces and buildings. As part of the [Strategy](#), where applicable, measures have been taken to increase ventilation (e.g. performing air flushing two hours before occupancy every morning and upgrade filtration) and upgrading ventilation. The upgraded filters, which meet public health and other experts' recommendations, are rated MERV-13, up from MERV-8 previously. Same as before the pandemic, the University continues to maintain our ventilation systems on a regular basis. If additional information on ventilation is required, please contact your JHSC with the request. Please note that such requests may require **weeks** to complete depending on the size and complexity of the ventilation system.

COVID-19 Self-Assessment via UCheck

As a reminder, Public health guidance requires a self-assessment for all members of our community, including faculty members, librarians, staff, and students, each day they visit any one of the three U of T campuses or any other property owned or operated by U of T. This can be completed online via [UCheck](#) or a [paper-based self-assessment](#) for those who are unable to access the UCheck online self-assessment or do not have a UTORid.

The University monitors compliance and provides ongoing reminders and educative tools, etc. As per the provisions in the [General Workplace Guideline](#).

COVID-19 Reminders

EHS COVID-19 Audits

EHS will be performing regular audits in coordination with scheduled JHSC inspections to ensure COVID-19 related measures are in place and will be accessing unit/departmental spaces with the assistance of Campus Safety. If you have any questions, please contact [EHS JHSC](#).

Supplemental Checklist during COVID-19

As a reminder, please ensure your unit completes the [Supplemental Checklist during COVID-19](#) during your rounds of inspections and forward a copy along with the inspection report to [EHS JHSC](#).

COVID-19 Resources

[UTogether](#) is a one-stop hub of information on how the University is responding to the pandemic, as we work toward a safe return to our campuses. [UTogether: A Roadmap for the University of Toronto](#) covers some important ways the University is promoting health and safety, advancing academic excellence and meeting the needs of our community as we navigate COVID-19. For all the latest information please check the [UTogether](#), [Safe Return](#), and [Roadmap](#) websites.

The University of Toronto continually updates our [frequently asked questions](#) related to COVID-19 and our community.

University of Toronto's General Workplace Guidelines

The University's [COVID-19 General Workplace Guidelines](#) (GWG) was sent out to JHSC co-chairs on July 10, 2020. Ongoing updates are made to this document to align with provincial and public health guidelines. While drafting, reviewing and approval of institutional guidelines is an employer responsibility, we encourage the JHSCs to read the document and welcome you to engage with management through your usual channels on any queries or recommendations you may have with respect to the application of the Guideline to worksites within your JHSC's jurisdiction.

Please note, the In-Class Instruction and Teaching Lab Guideline and the Events Guidelines have merged with the General Workplace Guideline. Please refer to the General Workplace Guideline for guidance relating to in-class instruction and teaching lab as well as events.

You may access the most updated version of the GWG and General Assessment Tool (GAT) on EHS [COVID-19 Information](#) webpage. Please also review [Returning to Campus - The Division of People Strategy, Equity, & Culture](#) for more information regarding returning to campus. We encourage JHSC members to review and submit any questions or considerations to [EHS JHSC](#).

UCheck Ambassador Program

Introducing the UCheck Ambassador Program, a friendly and educative way to remind members of our community to complete their UCheck health screening each and everyday they are on campus. The program, which began in October, uses small teams of UCheck Ambassador to visit high traffic locations across U of T campuses. For more information, please see [UCheck Ambassador Program](#) and [U of T's UCheck ambassadors remind community members to complete COVID-19 self-screening](#).

Ongoing Reminders

JHSC Newsletter Webpage

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

JHSC Minutes & Inspection Reports

As a reminder, please send all minutes and inspection reports to [EHS JHSC](#). If you have not submitted your minutes/workplace inspections for 2021 yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Health and Safety Boards

EHS is conducting its annual audits of health and safety boards on 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 webpage.

Type 3 Asbestos Abatement Work

Type 3 asbestos abatement air sampling results are available on the Asbestos Date website. For more information, please see [Type 3 Asbestos Abatement Information](#).

Important Policies

We encourage the JHSCs to review the following policies regularly: [Policy with Respect to Workplace Harassment](#), [Policy with Respect to Workplace Violence](#), and [Health and Safety Policy](#).

EHS JHSC SharePoint & Tutorial

The EHS JHSC Module has been phased out and replaced with the [EHS JHSC SharePoint](#). **Please note, all JHSC members will automatically receive an email once minutes/workplace inspections are uploaded to the JHSC SharePoint.** For more information or questions, please contact [EHS JHSC](#). Please [click here](#) for a tutorial on how to use the new EHS JHSC SharePoint.

CUPE3902 Unit 1 and Unit 3 Reimbursement

To request for reimbursement for JHSC related activities, please complete the [CUPE3902 Unit 1 and Unit 3 Pay Request Form](#), obtain approval from the manager co-chair and forward a copy to ehs.jhsc@utoronto.ca and ilo@cupe3902.org.

Interested in joining a Joint Health and Safety Committee?

Please contact [our JHSC](#) for any vacancies. As a reminder, in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act, worker members are appointed by their respective union. For more information, please see [JHSC FAQs](#) or contact [EHS JHSC](#).