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New Items

COVID-19 Updates
The University of Toronto continues to monitor Toronto, Peel, and provincial public health guidance and will adjust response as needed and update you on any changes.

Masking: The University's mask requirements have been lifted as of July 1, 2022. However, the use of a medical mask in high-density indoor spaces when physical distancing is not possible is strongly encouraged. The University is a mask-friendly environment, and we ask everyone to respect each other's decisions, comfort levels, and health needs. Medical masks are available for pickup on all three campuses to community members with an active UTORID as supplies allow. For a list of locations, please see Information about Masks.

Vaccination: To help keep U of T healthy from seasonal respiratory viruses, community members seeking COVID-19 and/or flu vaccinations can book appointments or find walk-in hours at local clinics across the Greater Toronto Area. The University continues to encourage all members of its community to get a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they become eligible.

Isolation Requirements: Individuals are required to isolate until no fever and symptoms improving for 24 hours (48 hours for gastro-intestinal symptoms), regardless of testing results or no testing. We continue to ask members of our community to remain at home if they are ill.

Self-Screening: UCheck daily health screening prior to coming to campus is no longer required. Individuals can monitor their health using the Provincial health screening tool.

Emergency Management at the St. George Campus
Campus Safety and the Office of Safety and High Risk are meeting with divisions starting in early 2023 to develop and roll-out a staff-facing Emergency Response Handbook that addresses a range of situations. This information can be found on the Responding and Reporting to Incidents webpage.
Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Concerns
If you have any concerns about indoor air quality (IAQ), please report the concern to your supervisor. Similar to other health and safety concerns, supervisors have responsibilities for health and safety in the workplace and workers are responsible for reporting hazards to their supervisor. EHS (ehs.office@utoronto.ca) is also available to provide support and conduct an assessment to identify workplace hazards and provide recommendations to address concerns. JHSC members who are approached by workers about IAQ concerns should also encourage workers to report their concerns to their supervisor and EHS.

Ventilation
The University implemented a sector-leading ventilation strategy that includes improvements to existing ventilation systems that service all parts of buildings, including classrooms, labs, offices, meeting rooms, and hallways. Further to this, air-change assessments have met a high-ventilation target in all classrooms that are in use. These exceptional ventilation standards will continue. See U of T’s HVAC strategy website for more information.

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. In the interim, locations can be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

COVID-19 Reminders

COVID-19 Resources
UTogether is a one-stop hub of information on how the University is responding to the pandemic. For all the latest information please check the UTogether, and Safe Environment websites. The University of Toronto continually updates our frequently asked questions related to COVID-19 and our community.

RSV, Influenza, and COVID Recommended Signage
- Centrally installed air purifiers in classrooms are regularly checked. Please see: COVID-19 Air Purifier Filters in Classrooms.
- New optional Respiratory Virus Season Poster

COVID-19 F&S Strategies
The University of Toronto is committed first and foremost to the health and safety of our entire community. To achieve this, the University has developed F&S COVID-19 Strategies: Caretaking Tri-Campus Strategy and COVID-19 heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) strategy.

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.
Ongoing Reminders

University of Toronto, Environmental Health & Safety website contains a lot of good information and resources:

- Monthly JHSC Newsletter
- Health & Safety (H&S) Board required posting and links for download. Please inform EHS when a board is installed/relocated as EHS conducts annual updates and audits. For a list of H&S Board locations click here.
- Health & Safety Policy and Policy with Respect to Workplace Harassment and Workplace Violence which JHSCs are encouraged to regularly review
- JHSC coverage per building. Please note, updates are regularly made as units move, occupy new space, etc.
- AED Locations are now listed on the U of T Map. For more information regarding AEDs, First Aid and First Aid Training, please check out our First Aid Training Page.
- Monkeypox Information
- CUPE3902 Reimbursement Forms for JHSC-related activities. Once approved by the manager co-chair of your JHSC, please forward a copy to ehs.jhsc@utoronto.ca and HSO@cupe3902.org.

EHS JHSC SharePoint

JHSC members can view/download minutes, inspections, etc. via SharePoint and will receive an email when minutes/inspections are uploaded. Please click here for a tutorial on how to use the new EHS JHSC SharePoint. JHSCs are reminded to regularly send relevant documents to EHS JHSC for upload.

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.

Type 3 Asbestos Abatement Work

Type 3 asbestos abatement air sampling results are available on the Asbestos Data website. For more information, please see Type 3 Asbestos Abatement Information.
F&S Service Alerts
To receive Facilities & Services (F&S) alerts for building related-services (e.g. service outages, shutdowns, Type 2 and 3 asbestos work), please subscribe to F&S Alerts.

Interested in joining a Joint Health and Safety Committee?
Please contact your 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.