

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING E-UPDATE

September 2022

This month we have welcomed Dave Lewis to our team as a HSW Manager. He will be working closely with Ras Malika – partnering with Academic Services, Strategic Engagement, CAI, Arts, Education & Social Work, Graduate Studies, Learning and Library Services and Campus Life. Dave comes with over 30 years as a HS&W professional so we are in good hands!

Dave has a keen interest in fire management and we are looking forward to fine tuning the University's fire processes. This is a good opportunity to get a fresh set of eyes on what we do, and what we can improve on.

Here's Dave!



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Emergency Evacuations / High Hazard Areas

Francesca Casu (Hazards & Containment Mgr, HSW Team) may be small in stature but her and her team play a big part in University laboratory safety – and when you stop to think about the range of biological hazards, lasers, chemicals and radioactive sources we use for research and learning everyday, there's a lot that could go wrong that we need to plan for.

So how do we deal with an emergency in high hazard areas of the university? One example in our highest hazard area of Biological Containment: Francesca works with the PC3 lab team of nine to perform a monthly *PC3 Emergency Responders Training*

exercise. The details of the response are determined by the type of emergency, e.g. for a spill, PPE includes boots, overshoes, 2 x gloves, a HEPA filter as well as full suit. However, sometimes reactions need to be faster and PPE used, so sometimes for lower risk lab work and organisms, a "lighter" version of the above can be effectively used to go quickly in the facility to attend e.g. to a person who fainted.

It's a detailed drill that needs to be practiced precisely and often.



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Lab Entry

A reminder to everyone to remember to be aware of your responsibilities including induction when entering the lab.

If in doubt – Locate a member of the technical staff before proceeding.

Let's keep "Reconnecting"



Mental Health Awareness Week was last week – but let's keep a focus in our teams and faculties to check in with ourselves, colleagues and as the weather improves – take time to step out of the office and enjoy the natural surroundings of the university.

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UoA Alert test – 6 October

On Thursday 6 October at 2.30pm, the University will be testing its UoA Alert emergency notification system with staff and students.

If you have not yet downloaded the UoA Alert app, please do so via the link below. This will allow you to take part in the test and ensure you receive immediate alerts in the case of a real emergency.

UoA Alert is available for Android and iOS (Apple) mobile devices and can be downloaded for free on app marketplaces including Google Play Store and Apple App Store.

[Emergencies at University of Auckland and the UOA Alert App](#)
[Installing and using the UOA Alert App](#)

WorkSafe happenings

WorkSafe NZ has released a new policy on how it sees workplace exposure standards and biological indices. Read more about it here:

[Applying the workplace exposure standards | WorkSafe](#)

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Using vehicles at work

We were interested in the details and victim impact statement after an incident involving Fulton Hogan in the Ngāūranga Gorge in March 2019 when a truck handbrake failed. The truck rolled down the hill and fatally struck a worker; the truck driver was also severely injured when he tried to get into the cab while the truck was moving.

The case serves as a sad reminder of the importance of vehicle maintenance – including contractors coming to university. The truck in the incident was checked 3 days before its hand brake failed.

[Judge considers fine for runaway truck death | Stuff.co.nz](#)

Be inquisitive and be 100% sure that vehicles people use at work allow them to return home to their families every night.

What training is coming up?

Last chance saloon for Health and Safety Stage 2 on the 17 & 18 October for 2022.

[Health and Safety Representative Training: Stage 2 \(csod.com\)](#)

First Aid Courses in October

[First Aid Refresher \(csod.com\)](#)

[Comprehensive First Aid Course \(with Online Pre-Learning\) \(csod.com\)](#)



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Covid-19

As of last Monday, the final vaccine mandates were removed by NZ Government, leaving only mask mandates in health care and a requirement for positive cases to isolate for 7 days. From 12 September elsewhere, including non-clinical areas of our campuses, public health controls (including mask-wearing and other personal public health measures) are now “encouraged” but not “required”. However, the Pandemic is still with us...

...so what does that mean in practice at the University? A few notes and pointers:

- Ventilation is being maintained at COVID settings with high levels of fresh air supply
- Mask-wearing is still encouraged – particularly where distancing is difficult (e.g. busy corridors, lifts and lectures). Please respect everyone’s choice to wear a mask!
- Mask dispensers and sanitiser units are still being maintained
- Stay home if you have symptoms, and take a test. Isolate for 7 days if positive
- If you have mild symptoms but don’t need to isolate and are otherwise fit to work, please work from home if you can
- If you must come into work with any symptoms, please exercise caution for the sake of your colleagues – wear a mask and sanitise regularly

The above is our team’s advice – reflecting but not quoting University policy and practice. The official communications for all our community can be accessed [here](#), and specific advice for staff is [here](#)



Angus Clark

Associate Director – HSW