



9. Occupational Health Program

BACKGROUND

UBC's [Occupational & Preventive Health](#) (OPH) unit provides confidential and free programs and services to help protect the health and safety of staff, faculty, and paid students working both on and off campus, including UBC-Okanagan and hospital sites.

OPH is available to all staff, faculty, and paid students who have questions or concerns about their health and safety in the workplace. To book an appointment with one of the Nurses, please contact OPH at oph.info@ubc.ca or 604-827-4713.

WHAT CAN OPH HELP WITH?

- Immunization review with an Occupational Health Nurse
- Vaccinations, tests, and screenings based on workplace exposure risks
- Clearance to work
- Medical clearance for respirator fit testing
- Post-exposure follow-up
- Pregnancy planning and resources
- Occupational allergy care
- Assessments of workplace risks for exposure to infectious agents (i.e. Hepatitis B Virus)
- Consultations with the OPH Physician
- Specialist referrals

WHEN SHOULD YOU MAKE AN APPOINTMENT?

If your work at UBC involves one or more of the following, you should enrol in OPH by booking a First Assessment appointment with the OPH Nurse:

- Entry into a hospital, clinical or dental facility
- Potential exposure to human blood, body fluid, tissue or cell lines
- Work with animal species
- Potential exposure to human feces and/or urine
- Potential exposure to infectious biological agents
- Work in a childcare facility
- Potential exposure to dirt/soil or rusty metal
- Entry into a Containment Level III facility
- If you have questions or concerns about your health in the workplace, including questions about COVID-19.

If you have had a workplace exposure incident (i.e. to human blood, body fluid, or tissue), contact OPH after you have notified your supervisor, received appropriate first aid and/or medical follow-up.



Illness Reporting

BACKGROUND

If a lab user becomes ill and is unable to report to work or school, the principal investigator (PI) should be notified as soon as possible. This early notification allows the PI to act appropriately in case there is an emergency in the laboratory (so that emergency responders do not waste time looking for them). Additionally, by reporting illness, a PI can watch for illness patterns that may indicate a problem with laboratory processes (such as handling biohazardous materials).

Laboratory Illness:

In this laboratory, contact your supervisor by following these procedures:

MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE

If you suspect that there may be an illness pattern in the lab that is related to the materials handled within that lab, please contact Health, Safety & Environment and visit the [Occupational and Preventative Health](https://hr.ubc.ca/health-and-wellbeing/occupational-preventive-health) webpage for further information (<https://hr.ubc.ca/health-and-wellbeing/occupational-preventive-health>).