



Occupational Health Program

INTRODUCTION

The Student Health Center in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Health and Safety will provide preventive and wellness care to UTEP personnel regardless of their employment status as it pertains to their responsibilities or activities on campus.

SCOPE

The following guidelines have been established to protect the health and well-being of faculty, staff and students involved in activities at The University of Texas at El Paso campus that could put them at risk for occupational exposure. This document also establishes operating procedures to assist departments and individuals in addressing the requirements for participation in the Occupational Health Program at UTEP. This program is designed to:

1. Prevent and detect disease and illness resulting from exposure to possible health hazards in the research environment;
2. Offer prompt and appropriate treatment for exposures; and
3. Establish baseline health data for future comparison.

DEFINITIONS

1. UTEP – University of Texas at El Paso
2. EH&S – Environmental Health and Safety
3. OHP – Occupational Health Program
4. PI – Principal Investigator
5. SHC – Student Health Center

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Environmental Health and Safety

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety is responsible for the administration and direction of Occupational Program for University personnel.

EH&S will receive health recommendations from the various safety committees on campus regarding enrollment of personnel in the OHP.

EH&S will perform inspections and meet with UTEP faculty in order to evaluate their specific needs in regards to OHP. EH&S will advise UTEP personnel of precautions and provide safety education in order to mitigate potential exposure to health hazards.

EH&S will work with the UTEP Student Health Center to provide health assessments and medical surveillance to enrolled UTEP personnel.

EH&S will provide an authorization referral form to all registered participants certifying their eligibility for the free service.

2. Student Health Center

The UTEP Student Health Center staff under the direction of the licensed physician and nurse practitioners will provide health assessments to enrolled UTEP personnel. These will be based on the potential health risks, specific to the activity UTEP Personnel are participating in. Health assessments will take place upon enrollment in the OHP, annually, and as necessary based on an individual's health status or work history.

Preventive and wellness care offered may include annual physicals, immunizations, and blood drawn to determine vaccination titers. Blood will also be drawn to rule out possible exposure if needed. If prophylactic antibiotics or medications are prescribed to a specific research group, the Student Health Center Pharmacy will carry those medications.

Health assessments may also include but are not limited to:

- Review of health history
- Review of activity/work history
- Physical examinations
- Immunizations
- Blood tests
- X-Rays
- Allergy tests
- EKGs

UTEP personnel health records will be maintained by the Student Health Center. OHP participants will not be billed for any health services offered, the EH&S department will cover all associated costs. The Student Health Center will send an Inter-department transfer voucher at the end of each month for all services rendered to EH&S for payment by EH&S.

Periodic meetings between EH&S and the various UTEP departments and faculty will assist in keeping the SHC and EH&S up to date with information on UTEP personnel (faculty/staff/students) who are working in UTEP laboratories.

3. UTEP Personnel

UTEP personnel enrolled in the Occupational Health Program will be required to:

- Attend occupational health and safety classes provided by EH&S staff;
- Follow safety precautions established for their activities;
- Annually complete the Occupational Health Questionnaire and submit to EH&S;

- Report to the Student Health Center for health assessments as required for medical follow-up;
- Report to the Student Health Center any illness that they experience regardless of severity or perceived origin; and
- Report to their supervisor and the Student Health Center any exposure or injury due to activities while at UTEP.

UTEP personnel need to complete the Occupational Health Questionnaire whenever their work changes or their health status changes due to a medical condition (immunosuppression, pregnancy, disease diagnosis, heart condition, lung disease, cancer, claustrophobia, etc.).

UTEP personnel can visit their personal physician and are not limited to the health assessments provided by the Student Health Center.

UTEP personnel must present a valid UTEP I.D. or driver's license when being seen at the SHC. UTEP personnel must make an appointment for their physical exams. Vaccinations or blood draws can be done on a walk-in basis.

LIMITATIONS

Costs incurred by health assessments not referred by EH&S or the OHP will be the responsibility of the individual and his/her personal insurance carrier.

REVIEWS AND REVISIONS

This document and all of its attachments will be reviewed annually and modified as necessary.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Occupational Health Questionnaire
2. Respiratory Protection Questionnaire
3. Vaccination/Declination form