



Occupational Health Program

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety in collaboration with a physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP) 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 (OHP) 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

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Environmental Health and Safety

The Department of EH&S 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 regard to the OHP. EH&S will advise UTEP personnel of precautions and provide safety education to mitigate potential exposure to health hazards.

EH&S will work with the PLHCP to provide health assessments and medical surveillance to enroll UTEP personnel.

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

2. Physician or other Licensed health Care Professional

The physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP) will provide health assessments to enrolled UTEP personnel. These will be based on the potential health risks, specifically to the activity UTEP Personnel are participating in. Health assessments may take place upon enrollment in the OHP, annually, and/or as necessary based on an individual's health status or work history.

Preventive and wellness care offered may include physical exams, 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 PLHCP 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 PLHCP OHP participants will not be billed for any health services offered. The EH&S department will cover all associated costs. The PLHCP will invoice 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 PLHCP and EH&S up to date with information on UTEP personnel (faculty/staff/students) 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.
- Complete the Occupational Health Questionnaire annually and submit it to EH&S.

- Report to the PLHCP for health assessments as required for medical follow-up.
- Report to the PLHCP any illness that they experience regardless of severity or perceived origin; and
- Report to their supervisor and the PLHCP 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 designed physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP) by EH&S.

UTEP personnel must present a valid UTEP I.D. or driver's license when being seen at the physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP). UTEP personnel must make an appointment for their physical exams, vaccinations and/or blood draws.

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 periodically and modified as necessary.

LINKS TO FORMS

Occupational Health Questionnaire

- [OHP form](#)

Respiratory Protection Questionnaire

- [RP questionnaire](#)

Vaccination/Declination form

- [Form](#)

Fit for Duty Report

- [Report](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Environmental Health and Safety

Phone: 915-747-7124

Email: health&safety@utep.edu

Fax: 915-747-8126