

Highlights of the Sept. 16, 2009 Central Advisory Health and Safety Committee Meeting

Prepared by Sheila Ettinger, CUPEU Health and Safety representative

An updated policy on international travel is being drafted to outline the protections in place for staff/faculty/students who are travelling on University-related business. Your CUPEU H&S representative brought up the question as to whether this would cover travel as part of professional development activities. The Director of EH&S thinks it does, but she will bring this to the attention of those drafting the policy to be sure.

A policy entitled "Working Alone Outside the Hours of Operation or in Isolation" has been drafted by the Office of the General Counsel, based on the recommendations of an interdisciplinary task force reporting to the VP-Services.

All buildings which have had two-stage alarm bell systems (a pre-alarm and the general alarm) are in the process of having the procedure changed. In the future, the pre-alarm will not be signaled by a slow bell but will consist of a pre-recorded message letting building occupants know that an alarm has been triggered and is being investigated. The reason behind this change was that having two different types of bells ringing was often confusing. In future, if you hear alarm bells, it will mean "leave now". Unfortunately, the reprogramming may not be completed in all such buildings in time for the fall fire drills.

Concordia's H1N1 Response Plan: Key Comments

- over 60 hand sanitizer stations installed in entranceways to major buildings
- new hand washing signs posted in all public washrooms
- cleaning routines modified to favour regular disinfection of certain surfaces in high traffic areas (e.g. handles, counters, elevator buttons, escalator railings, etc.)
- comprehensive statement issued to the community on Sept. 2nd

Other related comments:

- Health Services to add H1N1 info. to their phone menu
- Have a fever, chills, general flu symptoms? STAY HOME. 5-8 days for flu recovery is not unexpected. Supervisors will be receiving an information package making it clear that no medical note will be required for staff members with the flu. i.e. Don't bring your germs to work just to get a doctor's note. Seek medical attention immediately if you have breathing difficulties.
- Still worried? Feel free to contact Melanie Drew, Director of Health Services with your concerns.

Emergency Management at Concordia

- A wealth of information is available on the Emergency Management website: <http://www.concordia.ca/emergency/>
- Please take some time to review the information available there.
- In the event of an incident/emergency, call Security prior to 911.

There are two reasons for this, a) all security personnel are trained in emergency first aid and can be on scene within minutes, b) they can contact 911 and direct them to the exact location of the

emergency. Remember - it is only the institutional address that shows up on 911 screens, NOT THE BUILDING ADDRESS YOU ARE CALLING FROM.

Security internal number:

3717

Security external number (e.g. if calling from a cell phone):

514-848-3717

In the event of an incident on campus, updates will be posted at www.concordia.ca and at 514-848-8800

You can also register for emergency text messaging through your portal page.