



THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE & VETERINARY MEDICINE
EDINBURGH BIOQUARTER CAMPUS
HEALTH & SAFETY BULLETIN #306
01ST NOVEMBER, 2024

CM&VM (Edinburgh bioQuarter Campus) H&S web site: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine/staff-and-current-students/cmvm-health-and-safety/edinburgh-bioquarter>

University of Edinburgh H&S web site: <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety>



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Re-use of Laboratory Gloves: There has been a flurry of observations of laboratory gloves having been removed and left lying on benches rather than disposing of them immediately. I suspect that this odd behaviour may be grounded in an entirely mistaken belief that it is consistent with a desire for us to become even more sustainable. Be very clear - Laboratory gloves are single-use items of personal protective equipment. There is no way that a previously used glove can be worn again without the potential for harmful substances to be introduced inside the glove and then come into contact with the user's skin (Which is surely what we were trying to avoid in the first place by wearing gloves). There is, too, that a previously worn glove will be damp and difficult to wear again without it tearing. Even worse, I'm being told that some people are blowing into the gloves to reinflate them. It's madness, people. **MADNESS I TELS YOU!** When you've finished handling substances *etc*, remove the gloves (Properly), dispose of them Immediately and Correctly), and wash and dry your hands. And finally, DO NOT place them over the heads of teddy bears!

Please Note: The Safety Weasel will be on annual leave for much of November, trying desperately not to be sea-sick all over the North Atlantic, so the number of training events on offer will be reduced. "Normal" service will be resumed in December, and (at special request) there will be a repeat performance of *The Science of Santa* presentation.

Access to Health & Safety Training: Those wishing to participate in any one or more of the H&S training courses listed below (All of which continue to be delivered as on-line training using the medium of *MS Teams*) **MUST** provide **ALL** of the following information in the body of an email to Lindsay.Murray@ed.ac.uk:

- **Your Name** (as you wish it to appear on a hard-copy certificate of attendance, which will be issued sometime after the event);
- **Which Department/Centre/Building** you usually work within (So that your certificate can be posted out to you. So don't just write "IRR" – It's a big building, and I need to know which Research Centre you are based within, otherwise there's precious little chance of a certificate ever reaching you);
- **Which course(s)** you wish to attend (Be specific); and
- **An email address** that can be cut and pasted into a spreadsheet that will be used to generate an invitation containing a link which participants should use to join each event, and to which any supporting paperwork will also be sent.

Please Note: Failure to send ALL of the necessary information, AND IN THE ABOVE FORMAT, is likely to result in delays before final details can be confirmed.

Bookings for each course will close a few days before the event, in order to manage the invitation process, so it is recommended that you make an early bid to participate in training (I hesitate to suggest that this should be done also to avoid disappointment).

Hard-copy certificates of completion may, therefore, take some time to reach you, but they **WILL** be sent out in due course.

All courses are repeated regularly throughout the year; so, if you cannot attend one of those listed below, there will be further opportunities, and these will be advertised through the medium of future Safety Bulletins.

Health & Safety Induction Training: The next on-line health and safety-related induction training event will be offered at the following time:

- Monday 04th November, 2024 at 14:00 (for one hour).

This course, which is **MANDATORY** for all new and recently starting workers, will be suitable for people working in laboratories, offices and support services environments, and includes aspects of fire safety awareness.

Certificates of attendance will be issued for personal and departmental training records.

[To register, see above \(Health & Safety Training\).](#)

Late & Lone Working Training The next on-line late and lone-working safety training event will be offered at the following time:

- Tuesday 05th November, 2024 at 10:00 (for one hour).

Please note that attendance on this training course is **MANDATORY** for all those proposing to work outside hours of expected buildings occupancy (*i.e.* any time after 18:00 or before 07:00 Monday to Friday, or anytime at all during a weekend or University holiday) and anyone who is expected to work apart from others for periods of time.

Certificates of attendance will be issued for personal and departmental training records.

[To register, see above \(Health & Safety Training\).](#)

New Dates for Liquid Nitrogen Safety Training (Part 1): The next round of training will be delivered at the following time:

Liquid Nitrogen Safety (Part 1):

- Friday 20th December, 2024 at 10:00 (for approximately two and a half hours, to include a short comfort break).

New Dates for Compressed and Laboratory Gas Safety Training: The next round of training will be delivered at the following time:

Compressed and Laboratory Gases Safety:

- Friday 06th December, 2024 at 10:00 (for approximately two and a half hours, to include a short comfort break).

Certificates of attendance will be issued for your personal and departmental training records.

Please note that attendance on these training courses is **MANDATORY** for anyone proposing to (1) work in a liquid nitrogen plant room or handling cryogenic liquids, and/or (2) connect regulators to gas supplies or moving and handling compressed gas cylinders, *etc.*

[To register, see above \(Health & Safety Training\).](#)

Risk Assessment Training and Clinic: In addition to the wide range of task-based risk assessments that we have prepared and maintain for use within our various buildings, the regulatory authority (HSE) look for evidence that training has been provided to those who prepare and maintain these, and also to those work to the arrangements set out in the assessments.

A risk assessment safety training event will be offered at the following time:

- Thursday 07th November, 2024 at 10:00 (for up to 90 minutes, to allow time for questions relating to risk assessment).

Time has been built into the event to allow for participants to ask questions related to the preparation and application of risk assessments related to their own area of work.

Certificates of attendance will be issued for your personal and departmental training records.

To register, see above ([Health & Safety Training](#)).

Waste Management Training: This (approximately) thirty-minute training course will be offered at the following time:

- Friday 08th November, 2024 at 10:00.

Time will be added to allow for participants to ask questions, if they wish, related to the management of waste arisings related to their own area of work.

Certificates of attendance will be issued for your personal and departmental training records.

To register, see above ([Health & Safety Training](#)).

H&S Training for Principal Investigators, Team Leaders and Supervisors: It is possible to undertake this training programme on-line by selecting the appropriate link within <https://www.ed.ac.uk/health-safety/training/portfolio/role-specific>. Alternatively, many people in the past have expressed a preference for more personalised training at which time questions can be asked, and answers hopefully provided. This latter option (a one hour-long event) may be requested at a time of your greatest convenience by emailing Lindsay.Murray@ed.ac.uk

Biological Safety Training: All training modules are available as e-learning courses at <https://www.ed.ac.uk/health-safety/biosafety/training> Please note that these courses are NOT to be booked through the arrangements set out at the beginning of this Bulletin.

Radiation Protection Training: All training modules are available as e-learning courses at <https://www.ed.ac.uk/health-safety/radiation-protection/training/course-list> Please note that these courses are NOT to be booked through the arrangements set out at the beginning of this Bulletin.

Other On-Line H&S Training Resources: Information regarding other e-learning opportunities related to health and safety (some of which may be mandatory, depending on the nature of work that you expect to be doing) are available to peruse variously at <https://www.ed.ac.uk/health-safety/training/portfolio> and <https://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine/staff-and-current-students/cmvm-health-and-safety/edinburgh-bioquarter/training-presentations> Please note that these courses are NOT to be booked through the arrangements set out at the beginning of this Bulletin.

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Email: Lindsay.Murray@ed.ac.uk

Web site: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine/staff-and-current-students/cmvm-health-and-safety/edinburgh-bioquarter>

Theme Tune: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvLV3OZAcyg>

And finally, just a reminder that this is an **Entirely Non-Smoking Campus**, including (and especially) in proximity to compressed gas storage facilities.

