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CDC Releases New Hand-Hygiene Guidelines

Source:
<http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/r021025.htm>



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new guidelines that advise the use of alcohol-based handrubs to protect patients in health care settings. The hand hygiene guidelines are part of an overall CDC strategy to reduce infections in health care settings to promote patient safety.

CDC estimates that each year nearly 2 million patients in the United States get an infection in hospitals, and about 90,000 of these patients die as a result of their infection. Infections are also a complication of care in other settings including long-term care facilities, clinics and dialysis centers. Improving hand hygiene will help prevent the spread of germs from one patient to another.

Data shows that health care personnel may be more inclined to use alcohol-based handrubs because they are more convenient to use. Recent studies show that these handrubs actually reduce the number of bacteria on the hands more effectively than washing hands with soap and water.

If, as expected, hand hygiene products improve hand hygiene practices, preventing even a few additional health care-associated infections per year will lead to savings that will exceed any extra costs for better hand hygiene products.

These new hand hygiene recommendations are being incorporated into the OUHSC/OU-Tulsa *Infectious Diseases Policy*. For more information about the hand hygiene campaign go to <http://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene>.

Anthrax Drug Side Effects

Source:
http://www.newsok.com/cgi-bin/show_article?ID=939699&pic=none&TP=gethealth



According to a recent report, less than half of the people who were prescribed a 60-day course of antibiotics for anthrax during last year's attacks completed the treatment, and a majority complained of side effects.

Many postal workers, Senate office workers and media employees possibly exposed to anthrax reported mild side effects from the antibiotics, including stomach pain, nausea, headaches and dizziness. A few required hospitalization.

Last fall, five people died and 13 others were made ill by inhalation anthrax that was found in mail or mail processing facilities in Washington, New York, New Jersey, Florida and Connecticut. Federal officials provided antibiotic tablets to 10,000 people. Nearly 6,200 of the 10,000 people were interviewed by federal officials. About 57 percent complained of at least one side effect and only 44 percent finished the treatment.

Officials were surprised by the number of people reporting side effects. Ciprofloxacin typically results in adverse reactions in just 16.5 percent of users, while the other antibiotic used, doxycycline, typically has even fewer side effects.



COMPLIANCE CORNER



EPA Fines for Hazardous Waste Management

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has levied penalties on several eastern universities and colleges this past summer as a result of the EPA Region 2 Colleges and Universities Initiative. Manhattan College faces a \$111,199 penalty; Columbia University a total penalty of \$797,029; Long Island's University a \$219,883 penalty; and New Jersey City University a total penalty of \$88,344.

Some examples of the regulatory violations that led to penalties are; failure to minimize risk of fire, failure to determine whether solid waste was hazardous, failure to safely handle and store hazardous waste containers, storing hazardous waste without the necessary permits, and failure to keep detection records for underground storage tanks.

Please be familiar with the regulatory requirements, which are incorporated into the OUHSC/OU-Tulsa *Laboratory Safety Manual*, and if you have any questions or concerns, contact the EHSO.

Lab Fires

Source: <http://www.ucsc.edu/currents/01-02/01-14/fire.html>



The importance of laboratory safety has also become newsworthy due to the recent accidents and subsequent fires that have occurred in university research laboratories. One of the more recent incidents that occurred was fire that destroyed two chemistry laboratories at the University of California at Irvine in December of 2001. It was estimated that the fire caused 3.5 million dollars in damage.

Another incident occurred in a genetics laboratory at the University of California at Santa Cruz in January of 2002.

The fire gutted two large research labs, damaged other areas of the building, and closed several other buildings in the Science Hill area of campus. The damage caused by the fire was estimated to be millions of dollars. In 1996, the University of Texas had a chemistry laboratory fire that cost the university hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Shipping Biological Toxins

Source:

<http://www.bis.doc.gov/press/2002/SigmaAldrichPays4Acquisition.html>

The future threat of the misuse of biological and chemical toxins has prompted the federal government to closely monitor the use, storage, and shipping of biological and chemical toxins. Consequently, the United States Department of Commerce (DOC) has reached an agreement with Sigma-Aldrich Corporation and two of its subsidiaries concerning the illegal export of biological toxins to Europe and Asia. Sigma-Aldrich and subsidiaries agreed to pay \$1,760,000 under the agreement.

The DOC regulations (15 CFR Parts 730 to 79) state that exporters of a wide variety of etiologic agents of human, plant and animal diseases, including genetic material and products which might be used for culture of large amounts of agents, require an export license. The regulations and information may be found at <http://www.bxa.doc.gov>.

To determine if you need a license, see if the material you wish to export is on the Commerce Control List at <http://w3.access.gpo.gov/bis/ear/pdf/ccl1.pdf>. If it is, check the requirements for the country to which you are shipping at <http://w3.access.gpo.gov/bis/ear/pdf/738spir.pdf>. If you need help, contact the DOC Bureau of Industry and Security help line at 202-482-4811, or contact the EHSO.

DOT Shipping Diagnostic Substance Rules Change

Just after the EHSO presented training courses for shipping diagnostic and infectious agents, DOT changed the rules. Fortunately, they don't become effective until February 14, 2003. The EHSO will be holding training courses on January 27th and 30th, but in the mean time, here are the basics of the changes.

Diagnostic specimens **are no longer exempt** from the DOT packaging requirements and the definition has been expanded. Diagnostic specimen now means "**any human or animal material**, including excreta, secreta, blood and its components, tissue, and tissue fluids being transported for diagnostic or investigational purposes, but excluding live infected humans or animals."

Please see *DOT*, page 3



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DOT (continued)

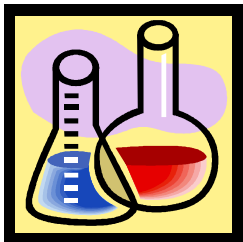
All diagnostic specimens, shipped ground or air must be packaged in a triple packaging: Primary receptacles (1) must be packed in (2) secondary packaging in such a way that, under normal conditions of transport, they cannot break, be punctured, or leak their contents into the secondary packaging. Secondary packagings must be secured in (3) outer packagings with suitable cushioning material. The completed package must be capable of successfully passing a drop test. The outer packaging must be clearly and durably marked with the words "Diagnostic Specimen."

Blood collected for the purpose of blood transfusion or the preparation of blood products and sent for testing as part of the collection process, (except where there is reason to believe it contains an infectious substance), and diagnostic specimens when transported by a private or contract carrier in a motor vehicle used exclusively to transport diagnostic specimens or biological products are excluded.

Each person who offers or transports a diagnostic specimen must receive training at least every 2 years.

Keep in mind, if you don't package it properly, your package may be refused for shipment, and DOT can and will fine shippers for not properly packaging regulated materials.

Surplus Chemicals



For a complete list of surplus chemicals, visit the EHSO website at <http://ehso.ouhsc.edu/ehso/surplus/surplus.htm>.

If you are interested in acquiring any chemicals listed below or on the EHSO website, please contact Trent Brown at 271-3000 (OUHSC employees only please).

2-Mercaptoethanol	Aquasol-2
n-Butylamine	Ethyl Acetate
Formaldehyde Solution	Silica Gel
Hydrochloric Acid	Molecular Sieves
Isopentyl Alcohol	Drierite
Methylene Chloride	Nickel 2500
Sulfuric Acid	Potassium Cyanide
Petroleum Ether	Pump Oil
Scintiverse BD	Sodium Cyanide
Ethyl Acetoacetate	Toluene

Annual Safety Training

It's time again for campus-wide safety training sessions for the Oklahoma City campus. Safety training is required annually for ALL employees. If you aren't sure whether you

are due for training, go to <http://ehso.ouhsc.edu/training/quiztaken.asp>. The system will ask for your username and password (the same ones you use for email). Be sure to enter "ouhsc" just before your username.

If you can't make the EHSO training sessions, on-line training is always available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at http://w3.ouhsc.edu/ehso/new_logon.html. Tulsa employees may contact Bob Farringer at 918/660-3878 for information on training in Tulsa.

The winter safety training schedule for Oklahoma City is as follows:

OFFICE - Library Auditorium

This session is designed for those employees who do not fall into either the "health care" or the "laboratory" setting. Examples include office personnel, faculty who have no lab or patient contact responsibilities, housekeeping and maintenance personnel.

Initial -Tuesday, December 17, 2002, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Refresher -Tuesday, December 10, 2002, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

HEALTHCARE - Library Auditorium

The health care sessions are designed for those who have direct patient contact such as in a clinic-type setting, including front line reception employees. These sessions address hazard communication, fire safety, tuberculosis, and bloodborne pathogens.

Combined Initial and Refresher -Tuesday, January 7, 2003, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

LABORATORY - Library Auditorium

The lab sessions are designed for lab employees who work with chemicals or biological material and address hazard communication, lab safety, fire safety and bloodborne pathogens. (One OUHSC Laboratory Safety Manual is issued to each lab. It is IMPERATIVE that attendees bring the lab's copy to the initial lab session.

Initial -Monday, January 13, 2003, 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Refresher -Thursday, July 18, 2002, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Shipping and Receiving Biological Materials - Library Auditorium

The shipping and receiving session is required for employees who ship or receive biological materials including animal and human blood/tissue samples.

Session 1-Monday, January 27, 2003, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Session 2-Thursday, January 30, 2003, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Celebrate and Decorate Safely

Source:

<http://admin-scb.ouhsc.edu/ems/holidaydecorations1.html>

<http://w3.ouhsc.edu/ehso/miscellaneous.html> (TULSA)



To keep the campus safe during the upcoming holiday season, the OUHSC Campus Police and Public Safety Office and the OU-Tulsa EHSO have developed guidelines for decorating your office areas. Please visit the above referenced sites for complete information on

safe decorating. Please remember to remove your decorations as soon as possible after the event for which they are used. All decorations will need to be removed prior to the campus closing for the Winter Holiday Break period.

Providing Safe Drinking Water in America

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/annual/>



The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that each state submits an annual report on public water system violations to EPA. The reports must address violations of national primary drinking water regulations with respect to maximum contaminant levels, treatment techniques, significant monitoring requirements, and variances and exemptions. States must publish and distribute summaries of their reports to the public. EPA summarizes and evaluates the annual state reports in an annual national report, which must also make recommendations concerning the resources needed to improve compliance with SDWA. For Oklahoma's report visit the following website <http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/annual/acr98.pdf>.

From Our Office to Yours.....

Seasons Greetings

Cheri Marcham, University Environmental Health and Safety Officer

Bob Farringer, Environmental Health and Safety Officer - Tulsa

Trent Brown, Assistant Environmental Health and Safety Officer

Michael Goodwin, Occupational Safety Officer

Stormie Leaverton, Administrative Secretary



The Saf•T•Gram is published by the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

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