

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

TO THE STANFORD COMMUNITY

Dear Campus Community,

"Are we there yet?"

The perennial question of car trips, and evidently pandemics as well. The challenges of the past three years have been unlike any other. Since day one of the pandemic, I have been incredibly proud of the dedication, creativity, and resilience of EH&S and our campus partners. Their efforts helped to create a safe environment for students to return to in person learning, and allow the important research our institution conducts to continue.

Today, the campus has the highest level of in-person activities in more than two years. Though the work of supporting COVID response continues, the conclusion of the COVID-19 Incident Command Structure and the formation of a permanent Public Health Steering Committee marked a return to more normal operations and decision making processes. This committee sets a strong foundation for the future public health and safety of our campus.

I'm impressed and amazed at the level of innovation and ability to expand support to campus in several important areas. We introduced on-site physical therapy into therapeutic offerings at the Occupational Health Center. This has been valuable for employees at every level, but especially important for those whose job, or life circumstances, makes accessing healthcare particularly difficult. The campus Wildfire Management efforts improved dramatically this year, a collaboration with LBRE and other partners, and we now have a dedicated program to support the campus emergency responder radio communication systems. Research Safety has continued to adapt to an increasingly complex and expanding research environment, while strengthening partnership agreements and enhancing communication efforts. Within EH&S, we are addressing opportunities to improve our efficiency, and service delivery. As a

department we are embracing the university's dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion through participation in the IDEAL Learning Journey. This effort has been a valuable part of our department's growth.

Though our circumstances are not as dire, looking to the future brings to mind a passage from President Abraham Lincoln's 1862 State of the Union address:

"The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty & we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, we must think anew & act anew."

We currently face a host of challenges: navigating the world of hybrid work, scaling our services to accommodate the needs of our campus, and a high likelihood of another winter wave of COVID infections. But, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to reinvent our work and explore new ways of thinking, in a field where the work we do has great meaning. This freedom is granted to us through the support and trust of our campus community and university leadership.

I am grateful for our staff's resilience and dedication to health and safety. I also want to extend my thanks and appreciation to our partners across campus for their support as we navigate our changing landscape together.

In Good Health,



Russell Furr, MPH, CIH
Associate Vice Provost for Environmental Health & Safety

Grad Student Fall Training

A hybrid safety training was provided to new graduate students. Students learned skills important for their lab roles (e.g., risk assessments, use of fume hoods, PPE).

Lab Ergonomics

EH&S's in-person lab ergonomics course was launched as an online course. The offering allows lab-based researchers to learn more about the prevention of workplace related injuries.

Stanford University Environmental Health & Safety

2021-2022 Year at a Glance

Annual Flu Clinics

In partnership with Vaden Health Center, OHC held their annual flu clinics and administered 2,619 free flu shots to faculty, staff, and postdocs.



EH&S Staff receive their annual flu shot

COVID-19 Case Surge

After winter closure, the campus experienced a surge in COVID-19 cases. The number of cases among faculty, staff, and postdocs reached its peak the week of January 3rd with 16,130 cases reported. Along with campus units, clinicians and EH&S staff worked around the clock to manage these cases.

COVID Policy Alignment

The State of California ended a temporary indoor mask mandate. Stanford decided to align event, visitor, and masking policies with the state (with the exception of continuing masking in classrooms).

EOC & DOC

Incident Command Structure for COVID-19 adjourned, symbolizing the end of the university's pandemic response to the beginning of an endemic response.

Rapid Test Kits

EH&S distributed over 50,000 rapid antigen tests for employees and graduate students.

Medical Waste Inspections

EH&S accompanied inspectors on Medical Waste inspections and supported follow up to inspection findings.

Toxic Gas Drill

EH&S conducted a required quarterly exercise pursuant to the Toxic Gas Ordinance at Stauffer I. This exercise integrated new staff into the response team.

Emergency Responder Radio Coverage System (ERRCS)

SUFMO, in partnership with University IT, presented to the University Infrastructure Safety & Security Committee with updates to the status of the ERRCS Testing/Maintenance Program and system renewals. This system enables emergency responders to communicate with each other in areas with poor cellular reception.

Radiation Audits

EH&S supported the successful audit of 300 Pasteur by the CA Radiological Health Branch. Health Physics tests of over 70 Clinical X-Ray devices, including CTs, at the hospital.

Commencement

The return of graduation ceremonies with minimal COVID-19 policy interventions (e.g., testing or vaccination requirements) marked a new chapter of normalcy on campus.



Live action videos provides for more engaging health and safety training

Digital Modernization of EH&S Modules

The launch of our IT Modernization initiative is a multi-year effort to review and enhance software applications that manages health and safety for the Stanford community.

Process Mapping

To continually improve programs and services to the community, EH&S began a Plan, Do, See, Act process mapping program. We will deliver more valuable and effective services to our campus by identifying key roadblocks and inefficiencies.

SEPT 21

OCT 21

NOV 21

DEC 21

JAN 22

FEB 22

MAR 22

APR 22

MAY 22

JUN 22

JUL 22

AUG 22

Laboratory Ventilation Plan

The LVP provides a framework ensuring that Stanford laboratories are safe and healthy work environments through guidance on selection of exposure control devices and ventilation practices.

COVID-19 Building Notification Exposure Dashboard

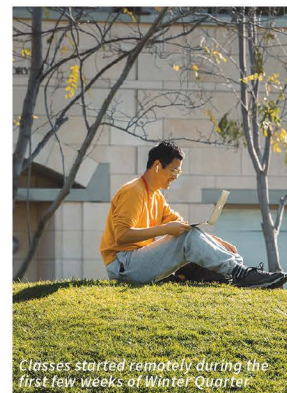
EH&S developed the dashboard to fulfill the employee building notification requirement established by AB685, while also reducing administrative burden on staff during times of increased caseloads.

Mudd Chemistry Decommissioning

EH&S supervised the decommissioning and demolition of lab spaces, along with managing the remaining laboratory chemicals as hazardous waste.

Worldwide IT Vulnerability

EH&S's IT team worked with UIT to quickly identify and mitigate potential local security vulnerabilities that, if exploited by unauthorized parties, could have resulted in financial or data loss.



Classes started remotely during the first few weeks of Winter Quarter

Restricted Chemicals Program

EH&S reached out to labs with tert-butyllithium and hydrofluoric acid to determine if these high hazard chemicals were still needed, and if so to ensure appropriate safeguards were in place.

AALAAC Accreditation

EH&S assisted in Stanford's accreditation by AALAAC, an organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science, through health surveillance for staff, the official program description, and site visit support.

VA BSL-3 Support

EH&S supported Veterans Affairs Palo Alto with a new Biosafety Level (BSL) 3 facility coming on-line by reviewing research materials and consulting on space requirements and emergency protocols.

Wildfire Surveys

Annually, the Fire Marshal's Office works with LBRE to survey Stanford lands and campus housing for wildfire hazards as a part of wildfire mitigation efforts. Dead trees and brush, overgrown landscapes, and hazards near roof lines are evaluated.

Field Safety Program

Resources were expanded to include a template field safety plan and hazard-specific field safety fact sheets. These tools will help researchers, trip leaders, and field work supervisors to better mitigate physical, environmental and psychological hazards inherent in field work.



The Edgewood fire was the catalyst for the campuswide power outage

Power Outage

EH&S participated in the emergency response to a 3-day campus power outage. Research operations ceased, classes were canceled, and buildings were without cooling or power during a heat wave.

Student Dorm Renovations

Many large student housing renovation projects are underway, where EH&S is overseeing hazardous materials removal operations.

Public Health Steering Committee

The Public Health Steering Committee (PHSC) was formed from the expertise of public health leaders at the School of Medicine, and university leadership. The PHSC is tasked with evaluating public health issues affecting our campus and setting policies, along with managing COVID-19 issues.

Physical Therapy

On-site PT is available at the OHC. Stanford employees can receive acute treatment for workplace injuries, as well as learn functional movements and exercises to prevent future injuries.

Joint Commission Review

HP supported the successful review of the Stanford Hospital by the Joint Commission. These annual reviews are critical for the continued accreditation of Stanford Health Care facilities.

TIMELINE KEY

COVID-19 RESPONSE

EH&S OPERATIONS