

HEALTH AND SAFETY



Sustainability cannot be limited to the green environment alone.

It is important to ensure staff and students return home safe and healthy every day.

HIGH STANDARDS AND MEASURES

HSUHK implemented internal safety precautionary control measures to minimise risk, prevent injury, avoid property damage and maintain Health and Safety (H&S) in the University. Especially for the enhancement of precautionary measures against COVID-19, the University has been closely monitoring the latest situation on campus and the following precautionary measures have been enhanced:

- i) As the University has resumed face-to-face teaching on campus in the academic year, all necessary disinfection measures have been carried out to reduce the risk of epidemic outbreak and cross-infection inside the campus. Such measures will get the University prepared for and build resilience to any unforeseen pandemic in the future. To disinfect the space and the high-touch surfaces, the cleaning frequency has been increased and service providers has been hired to manually spray disinfectant coating to the risky surfaces, the latest treatment was completed in July 2023;
- ii) In addition, CDMO purchased an AI autonomous robot in October 2022 to further improve the environmental hygiene by purifying air and eliminating bacteria. The disinfection and cleaning robot allows the University to clean and disinfect the campus much more frequently and cost-effectively ensuring the disinfectant coatings on high-touch surfaces are frequently refilled to provide a safe environment for the users; and
- iii) Safety talks and fire drills have been regularly organised to refresh the community the awareness of fire safety. We arranged a fire drill for M Building, Old Hall and Staff Quarters in June 2023, as usual, we invited the Fire Services Department to conduct a fire talk after the fire drills.

COMPLIANCE INDICATORS, ENGAGEMENT AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Compliance Indicators

Campus Development and Management Office (CDMO) monitors and reviews yearly any measures in place to help control risk and prevent accidents and incidents from happening. Findings from the investigations can form the basis of action to prevent the accident or incident from happening again and to improve overall risk management. An effective investigation requires a methodical, structured approach to information gathering, collation and analysis. Health and safety investigations form an essential part of the monitoring process and incidents, including near misses, can tell us a lot about how things actually are in reality.

- Investigating accidents and reported cases of work-related injuries, occupational ill health and dangerous occurrences will help us uncover and correct any breaches in health and safety legal compliance we may have been unaware of; and
- The fact that we thoroughly investigated an incident and took remedial action to prevent further occurrences would help demonstrate that the University has a positive attitude to health and safety.

An investigation can help us identify why the existing risk control measures failed and what improvements or additional measures are needed. It can:

- provide a true snapshot of what really happens and how work is really done (workers may find shortcuts to make their work easier or quicker and may ignore rules - we need to be aware of this)
- improve the management of risk in the future
- help other parts of HSUHK learn
- demonstrate our commitment to effective health and safety and improving employee morale and thinking towards health and safety

Engagement – Safety Ambassadors

Safety ambassadors were nominated across all offices and units of the University to maintain liaison with CDMO. They are engaged to familiarise themselves with and to conform to the H&S protection policies on behalf of their office/unit to develop a healthy and safe work environment. Different safety promotion programmes were arranged for the Safety Ambassadors such as Automated External Defibrillators (AED) and First Aid Certificate Course training course organised by Fire Services Department (FSD) and Hong Kong St. John Ambulance in order to enhance the H&S awareness at the University.

In order to ensure the ergonomic safety and reduce any risk to the users of workstations, the safety ambassadors are responsible to assess the workstations in their units/departments deciding whether existing precautions are adequate and recording the findings. The competence course "Certificate of Competence in Display Screen Equipment (DSE) Assessment" organised by the Occupational Safety & Health Council will be arranged for Safety Ambassadors. After completing the course, they will learn the techniques for carrying out risk assessment in a workstation, develop an understanding on the various health hazards and the corresponding control measures in connection with the use of DSE.

Continuous Improvement

Due to rapid development of campus as well as the increase of population in the campus, the potential risks within the campus are increasing with respect to the events, functions, and other activities. In this connection, it is necessary to formulate and implement a Health & Safety Policy covering safety rules and emergency procedures to streamline the roles and responsibilities for different stakeholders in the campus such that the impacts to the University operation could be minimised.

In addition, CDMO will submit Annual Review Report on H&S to the Risk Management Group (RMG) in October every year, the report includes implementing internal H&S precautionary control measures to minimise risk, prevent injury, avoid property damage, and maintain H&S environment in the University.

