A Few Words Regarding Dangerous Goods Shipments

Dangerous Goods shipments are tightly regulated by the US Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration. There are many rules that must be followed for a wide variety of materials that may commonly be shipped by the university. Dangerous Goods, by definition, are articles or substances which are capable of posing a risk to health, safety, property or the environment. Dangerous Goods include such items as dry ice, lithium batteries and many more described in the link below:

http://www.oehs.wayne.edu/dangerous-goods-memo.php

Please take a moment to think about the material you plan to ship from WSU. It might be a Dangerous Good. Not sure? Then call OEHS and one of our trained, experienced staff will help you. It’s what we do. You can also view the Regulatory requirement for shipping dangerous goods. Show above: for dry ice shipping.

OEHS policy for help shipping your materials at the following link:
http://www.oehs.wayne.edu/dangerous-goods.php

For any Hazardous Waste disposal requests visit our website
http://www.oehs.wayne.edu/hazardous/index.php

Upcoming Safety Training Events:
For any training registration: http://www.oehs.wayne.edu/training/laboratory-training.php

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Thanks to our news contributors:
Walter Pociask, Scott Browne, Elena Fracassa and Tom Perez
Preventing Needlesticks

Needles are used in many of our laboratories and clinics throughout the university. They are a potential hazard for healthcare workers, lab researchers and lab animal staff, students, and custodians. Safe handling and disposal of needles and other sharp instruments is critical in preventing injuries to students and workers.

What infections can be caused by needle stick injuries?

Needle stick injuries can expose workers to a number of bloodborne pathogens that can cause serious or fatal infections. These pathogens pose the most serious health risks:

- Hepatitis B virus (HBV)
- Hepatitis C virus (HCV)
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) – the virus that causes AIDS

HBV vaccination is recommended for all workers who handle human blood, cells, tissue, or other potentially infectious materials. HBV vaccine has proved highly effective in preventing infection in workers exposed to HBV. However, no vaccine exists to prevent HCV or HIV infection.

How common are needlestick injuries among health care workers?

Estimates indicate that 600,000 to 800,000 needlestick injuries occur each year. Unfortunately, about half of these injuries are not reported. Always report needlestick injuries to ensure that you receive appropriate follow-up care.

What kinds of needles usually cause needlestick injuries?

- Hypodermic needles
- Blood collection needles
- Suture needles
- Needles used in IV delivery systems

Do certain work practices increase the risk of needlestick injury?

Yes. Studies have shown that needlestick injuries are often associated with these activities:

- Recapping needles
- Transferring a body fluid between containers
- Failing to dispose of used needles properly in puncture-resistant sharps containers

How can I protect myself from needlestick injuries?

- Avoid the use of needles where safe and effective alternatives are available.
- Select and evaluate devices with safety features that reduce the risk of needlestick injury.
- Avoid recapping needles.
- Plan for safe handling and disposal of needles before using them.
- Promptly dispose of used needles in appropriate sharps disposal containers.
- Report all needlestick and sharps-related injuries promptly to your supervisor to ensure that you receive appropriate follow-up care.

Sustainability: A Goal for Everyone

How many times have you heard someone start a conversation with the words “in the good old days”? These people are remembering something in their past, something that was special to them, and is, unfortunately, no longer quite the same. While these fond remembrances may be of Grandma’s apple pie, or of carrier pigeons, or penny candy and cheap gasoline, they all share a commonality in people’s minds: no matter how legitimate the reason, they are no longer able to be enjoyed any more.

The term “sustainability” is often used to describe this “good old days” way of thought. Our mission is to make people think about how we could better utilize our finite natural resources. Our challenge is to see that we satisfy today’s needs, but not use these resources up completely, thereby precluding future generations the ability to enjoy them. The task we face is how to use our natural resources efficiently, without completely using them up.

We need to do our best to assure that future generations don’t have to long for the “good old days”.

People must not discount their own individual impact on sustainability. If we all rededicate ourselves to this mindset change at Wayne, and on a larger scale in your own communities, the results are really remark-
Hand Washing, Great practice.

- Hand washing reduces the spread of germs/viruses and contamination.
- Hand washing is the #1 way to prevent a food borne illness.

The following are the tips for proper hand sanitation:

- Wash your hands with plain soap and water; or with antimicrobial soap and water if:
  - your hands are visibly soiled (dirty)
  - hands are visibly contaminated with blood or body fluids
  - before eating
  - after using the restroom
  - wash all surfaces thoroughly -- fingers, between fingers, palms, wrists, back of hands
  - ensure hand sinks are kept clear and that there are no objects in front of or inside the sinks.
  - keep hand sink stocked with soap and paper towels.
  - hot water; warm water is required at hand sinks and is typically required to be 100°F.

Another alternative is hand sanitizer:
Hand sanitizer has become popular over the years, but is not a substitute for hand washing.
If your company chooses to provide hand sanitizers in conjunction with proper hand washing please follow these guidelines:

Hand sanitizer must have a minimum ethyl alcohol concentration of 61%.

As advertised hand sanitizer may kill 99.9% of all bacteria, but it is not effective against viruses such as Hepatitis, Norovirus and any other parasites or bacteria spore. (All of which are known to cause foodborne illness and may be on your hands)

Additionally, hand sanitizers are not able to penetrate dirt and debris on your hands that bacteria can live underneath. This is why hand sanitizer alone is not as effective as hand washing.

Remember, hand washing is the most effective way to reduce the spread of several potential germs/viruses other types of contamination.

Washing hands at least 4 times a day reduces more than 50% of stomach illness.

22 million school days are lost due to the common cold alone.

For any environmental health and safety services visit:
www.oehs.wayne.edu