



Office of the Chancellor

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University Hospitals
School of Medicine

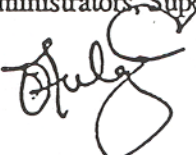
School of Nursing
School of Dentistry

School of Pharmacy
Graduate School

MEMORANDUM

DATE : October 10, 1995

TO : Deans, Department Chairpersons, Department Heads, Division Heads,
Principal Investigators, Administrators, Supervisors

FROM : Vincent A. Fulginiti, M.D. 
Chancellor

SUBJECT : Safety Issues

The campus Environmental Health and Safety Committee has recommended three safety policies be formally stated and fully implemented at the Health Sciences Center. These policies were drafted by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety and presented to administrators for the School of Medicine, the School of Pharmacy, the School of Dentistry, and the School of Nursing for comment.

EYE PROTECTION

Strong acids, bases, and other materials that may be corrosive, toxic, or infectious are in widespread use at the Health Sciences Center and some activities have the potential of generating dangerous projectiles. There is a very real risk that employees, students, or visitors may be injured by these materials coming in contact with their eyes. In fact, eye injuries represent a significant percentage of our workplace injuries. Moreover, Colorado law requires "the governing board of every school district, university, college, or other institution of higher learning...to provide eye protective devices for the use of all students, teachers, and visitors" and requiring supervisors of activities involving "working with hot liquids, solids, or chemicals which are flammable, toxic, corrosive to living tissues, irritating, sensitizing, radioactive, or which generate pressure through heat, decomposition or other means" to "require such eye protective devices be worn by students, teachers and visitors." The requirement for providing appropriate eye protection also applies to all UCHSC employees, students and visitors engaged in research.

It is the policy of the Health Sciences Center that full compliance with the provisions of this law in accordance with DEHS guidelines is the responsibility of managers, principal investigators, supervisors and employees for all teaching, research, and maintenance activities.

EATING AND DRINKING IN HAZARDOUS AREAS

Eating, drinking, applying cosmetics, and smoking in areas where toxic, radioactive, or infectious materials are used increase the risk of harmful exposure by ingestion and are prohibited by regulations and standards adopted by Centers for Disease Control/National Institutes of Health, Colorado Department of Health/Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and other governmental and standards setting organizations.

Eating, drinking, applying cosmetics, or any other extraneous activities that increase the risk of ingestion of hazardous chemical, radioactive, or infectious materials are prohibited in areas where these materials are used. Areas where food and beverages may be consumed must be separated by a physical barrier from work areas where hazardous materials are used. Food and beverages may not be consumed in areas where hazardous materials may be deposited from airborne contamination. Departments, schools, or other work units shall designate appropriate areas for lunches and breaks where eating and drinking are permitted and no hazardous materials are present. The supervisor of an employee or student area or activity shall be responsible for assessing the potential exposure for an area or activity in accordance with DEHS guidelines.

CHILDREN IN HAZARDOUS AREAS

Hazardous materials are stored and used in many areas of the Health Sciences Center, including most laboratories. The presence of children in any of these areas unnecessarily exposes the children and the other occupants of these areas to risks of accident, injury or a release of hazardous materials. Recent accidents and injuries at other institutions underscore the need for a clear policy limiting the conditions under which children can be brought into a potentially hazardous work place.

Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from entering laboratory areas or other areas where hazardous materials or conditions may be present unless such entry is in the context of a scheduled, approved, and properly supervised departmental activity, such as an open house or tour, or the potential exposure to hazardous materials or conditions is in the context of the normal duties of a student, student worker or intern and the minor has been trained in the hazards of the work and deemed competent to handle those risks by his or her supervisor. Children shall not be brought to work areas where hazardous materials are used or stored or hazardous conditions may exist. Children may be escorted through potentially hazardous areas to reach office areas, waiting rooms, or other non-hazardous areas if they are in the presence of and under the close supervision of an adult cognizant of the hazards of the area. Children shall not be left unattended in areas where hazardous materials are used or stored or hazardous conditions may exist. The supervisor of an employee or student area or activity shall be responsible for assessing the potential hazards of an area or activity in accordance with DEHS guidelines.