

“We-Safety” is a newsletter aimed at providing PolyU staff and students with safety information and news about how the University is working to keep our community safe.

May **We** work together to achieve **Safety** on campus.

Coronavirus Precautionary Measures at Construction Sites on Campus

COVID-19 cases in Construction Sites in Hong Kong

The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most significant events of our time. One year ago on 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a pandemic.

In the past year, various outbreak clusters that being infected with COVID-19 were reported. In January 2021, a spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau admitted that there were a number of confirmed cases involving construction site workers in the first month of 2021¹. It led the government to issue compulsory testing notices for individual construction sites and offer a one-off free COVID-19 testing service to all construction site workers in Hong Kong.



News reporting COVID-19 cases in Construction Sites in January 2021
Source: RTHK.hk (left) and The Standard (Online)

PolyU's Precautionary Measures

There are several construction / renovation sites on PolyU campus. To reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection at construction sites, numerous precautionary measures have been carried out since 2020.

¹ Government of Hong Kong's Press Release on 14 January 2021 (<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/14/P2021011400134.htm>)

Campus Access Arrangements

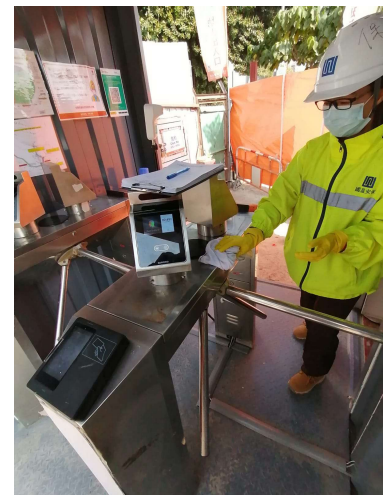
Same as all other campus users, site workers have to conduct the body temperature screening at the campus entrance. They also have to submit health declaration every week, the University reserves the right to increase the frequency of submission, if necessary.

Observe Good Personal Hygiene and Wash Hands Frequently

Site workers are required to wear a surgical mask properly to fully cover the mouth, nose and chin at all times. Hand sanitizers are provided at construction sites and the site office for use. They are also reminded to wash hands thoroughly before eating, after touching public installations such as door knobs, etc.



Posters / Signages with Information of Precautionary Measures are Put On at Construction Sites



Clean and Disinfect the Common Facilities / Areas Regularly

Keep the Site Clean

The shared facilities at construction areas could be one of the risks for coronavirus transmission. The University required the changing areas and common areas (such as gathering places or rest room) should be cleaned and disinfected at least two times per day.

Workers' Health Condition Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism

Construction site contractor has to check if their worker(s):

- ❖ has a test result of "positive" for COVID-19; or
- ❖ has close contact with any infected patient(s); or
- ❖ has visited an off-campus construction site which have confirmed case(s) in the past 14 days; or
- ❖ are required to conduct a mandatory COVID-19 test by Centre for Health Protection (CHP).

Contractor has to report to the Project-in-charge of the University when abovesaid situation occurs. For workers who are required to conduct a mandatory COVID-19 test, they should not return to campus until a test result of "negative" is received.

Construction sites are required to close for full disinfection and contact tracing if confirmed case is found. The University would take all the actions required by the CHP in this case.



Join Hands to Protect Construction Sites and the Campus from Virus

All the workers are informed for the University's precautionary measures. Relevant notices and posters with information of health tips are displayed at the construction sites and site offices. Further suggestions, such as flexible working hours, flexible lunch hours, minimizing cross-site works by workers, have also been conveyed for site contractors' consideration.

Health, Safety and Environment Office (HSEO) works closely with Campus Development Office, Facilities Management Office and the site contractors to monitor and review the health and hygiene condition of the sites regularly to reduce the risk of virus infection.

We – People

Two winning videos, created by two groups of students, from the "One-minute Video Competition – In Times of Facing Pandemic" are now broadcasting on campus and via HSEO's Instagram. In the last issue, Assem shared with us the reasons of creating a video to spread the message of staying positive during the pandemic. In this issue, we have two local students from School of Nursing (SN) to share the objectives of their production and their experience of facing pandemic.

Lorelei Ip and Carrie Ng, School of Nursing



Ms Lorelei Ip (Left), Ms Carrie Ng (Right) and Mr H. S. Loo

Lorelei and Carrie are two year 4 students from SN. They created a video namely "Rainbow Hands (七色彩虹手)", which aims at raising the community's concerns on proper handwashing. "Although the posters of '7 steps of handwashing' are always being posted in toilets, people seldom follow or perform properly. We would like to highlight the unique purpose of each step to raise the concerns via the video so that people can practice proper hand hygiene logically", Lorelei said.

With the campus-wide promotion of 7 steps of handwashing in the past one year, the University community maybe familiar with the number of steps, but it was doubtful if they could carry out all 7 steps. In the video, Lorelei and Carrie are not only talking about the 7 steps of handwashing, but applying an innovative concept of 7 colors of rainbow for 7 parts of our hands, to assist people's knowledge retention. "A study shows that colors consistently increased learning outcomes even the mechanism is unclear (Brom, Starkova, & D'Mello, 2018)," Lorelei and Carrie continued, "Our 'rainbow hands' concept allows people to have a better impression and understanding on the corresponding parts of our hands targeted to wash in one particular washing step. Missing a step does matter when it becomes a habit". These two students tried to use the color order of rainbow to follow the proper steps of handwashing.



As nursing students, Lorelei and Carrie understand well fighting the virus is not one person's work. They expressed that help spreading the health message to surrounding people is important, even trivial acts counted. "I started emphasizing the moments for hand rubs, don and doff mask technique, avoid going to the crowded places, etc. at the beginning of epidemic situation. I found that my family has followed me and changed their habits from time to time. Recently, they even help sending these messages to their peers," Lorelei shared. These two nursing students hope everyone knows their importance in fighting virus. They believe that **health will eventually become our friend** and someday we would overcome this hard time.

Reference

Brom, C., Starkova, T., & D'Mello, S. K. (2018). How effective is emotional design? A meta-analysis on facial anthropomorphisms and pleasant colors during multimedia learning. *Educational Research Review*, 25, 100-119.

We – Listen

*We value your opinions and **We** always **Listen**.*

Launch of E-form for Change of Departmental Safety Personnel

Starting 3 March 2021, an e-form is made available at <https://polyu.hk/eaOOI> for appointment / change of departmental safety personnel (DSP).

With this online form, the requester delegated by the Head of Unit (HoU) may submit timely appointment or change information of safety personnel via the e-platform. After submission, notification email will be sent to HoU for review and approval on the change. With the e-form, staff members may make the changes of DSP in a more efficient and paper-free way.

Change of Departmental Safety Personnel Form

Note to HoU/Applicants

1. Departmental Safety Personnel should be appointed by Head of Department with reference to the designated guidelines.
2. Please appoint staff members of your department/office when there is a change of departmental safety personnel.
3. This form will be sent to Head of Department for approval and email copy to requestor for reference.
4. After approved by Head of Department, HSEO will contact every appointed departmental safety personnel, whenever necessary, to complete the required training or any other proforma.
5. Designated departmental safety personnel are required to undertake briefing or training so as to enable their discharge of duties.
6. Please fill in another form if there are more than FOUR changes.
7. Annual confirmation exercise of the designated departmental safety personnel will be conducted.
8. For any enquiries, please email to safety.hseo@polyu.edu.hk or contact HSEO General Office at 3400 8396 or 3400 8419.

User Accounts Information

Action	Assigned Role	Name	NetID	Post Title	Email	Telephone	Effective Date
1. <input type="radio"/> Add <input type="radio"/> Drop	Select an item	Select a person				8 digit number	Select a date
Remarks							
2. <input type="radio"/> Add <input type="radio"/> Drop	Select an item	Select a person				8 digit number	Select a date
Remarks							

E-form for Change of Departmental Safety Personnel

A quick guide of the use of e-form is now available at HSEO's website (<https://polyu.hk/kiVsX>) for viewing/reference.

Online Lunch Talk for Healthy Eating (識飲識食網上工作坊)

With University community's feedback on the topics of lunch talk, it showed that healthy eating is the most concerned issue amongst staff and students. Due to the epidemic situation, an online lunch talk on the said topic was held on 29 January 2021. Health expert from OSHC and registered nutritionist were invited to share the healthy eating tips with our participants.

Relavant health tips have also been shared at the Instagram page (@polyuhseo) of HSEO.



We — Update

Site Visit by Occupational Safety & Health Council

“Joyful@healthy Workplace Best Practices Award (Enterprise/ Organization)” of Occupational Health Award 2020-21, which is jointly organized by the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC), the Labour Department, the Department of Health, the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board and the Occupational Deafness Compensation Board, to recognize organisations that have outstanding achievements in promoting “Healthy Eating”, “Physical Activity” and “Mental Well-being”. PolyU is shortlisted for this award again for the fourth year.



Award judging panel visited the University in January 2021 to observe the relevant facilities provided for campus users and have more understanding on the health and safety measures for university community.

The Award result will be announced in the second quarter this year.

We — Learn

With the latest development of epidemic, the Labour Department (LD) resumes some classroom seminars for the public on the following occupational health topics in May 2021:

- ❖ First Aid in the Workplace (工作間的急救常識)
- ❖ Prevention of Upper Limb Disorders (預防上肢勞損)
- ❖ Health Hazards of Hot Environment at Work (酷熱環境工作對健康的危害)
- ❖ Manual Handling Operations and Prevention of Back Injuries (體力處理操作及預防背部勞損)

Safety expert from the LD would deliver the relevant messages and answer participants’ concerns on the above said topics.

All these public talks are conducted in Cantonese and are free of charge.

You are welcome to visit

https://www.labour.gov.hk/tc/osh/pdf/OHPT/Public_Health_Talks_202105_tc.pdf for details and be reminded that pre-registration required and on-site registration is not available.

Infection control measures taking into account the latest COVID-19 epidemic developments will be adopted at the venues. Please follow the on-site instructions for arrangement.

Contact Us

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