Snapshot of safety and health at work

Highlighting the collective efforts and achievements from staff across the University of Bristol as we responded to new health and safety challenges during a year like no other.

bristol.ac.uk/safety
Working from home

- 5,000+ staff completed a new e-learning module that includes advice on homeworking.
- 1,000+ requests for homeworking equipment and furniture reviewed, processed and delivered, with all risks evaluated and bespoke advice given.
- Support from Occupational Health to manage complex issues.
**Travel**

- Global Travel Approval system developed and SafeZone app launched, helping keep staff and students safe when they are travelling as part of their work or studies.

**Drones**

- Drone Safety Group set up to help drone operations take place safely and in line with national and international aviation requirements.

**Chemical**

- 6,000 litres of hand sanitiser produced and distributed by a team led by School of Chemistry and supported by Safety and Health Services and Campus Division.

**Biological**

- One of the first research applications for work with COVID-19 reviewed and regulator successfully notified, allowing research with global importance to take place in a high containment (CL3) facility on our Clifton campus.

- Bespoke training for working safely in high containment facilities such as those used for staff handling COVID-19 material was delivered in collaboration with HSE.

**Accidents**

- Positive safety culture among staff highlighted by increased near miss reporting despite changing work arrangements.

- Incident rates reduced from an average of 47 incidents per month pre-lockdown to an average of 12 per month during the lockdown period.
Occupational health

- Adapting to online student health screenings, virtual referral appointments and a welcome video for new Faculty of Health students.
- New health promotions and collaborations including skincare resources and new hygiene stations for Engineering workshops.

Working in the sun

- Sun Check campaign with a selection of resources helping staff manage workplace health in the sun.

Fire

- Maintaining fire safety statutory compliance in University buildings even during building closures and adapting training refreshers for fire wardens.

Radiation

- Enabling research activities with radioactive sources to continue and maintaining regulatory inspections by the Environment Agency and Office for Nuclear Regulation.
COVID-19 tested the effectiveness of our health and safety management system. As a University, we:

- **Adapted our roles** and responsibilities to provide accessible support to Academic Schools and Professional Services Divisions.

- **Applied our knowledge** and understanding of health and safety practice to create local and institutional guidance to manage the risk of transmission.

- **Recognised our experts** and utilised their expertise to help manage public health risks and meet a complex and ever-changing set of governmental and sector guidance.
Safety and Health Services used key elements of the self-verification assurance assessment to provide assurance of the local management of risks when certifying buildings COVID-secure.

- University buildings certified as COVID-secure.
- 70,000+ face coverings and face visors procured and distributed to all staff and students.
- Comprehensive guidance on PPE published.
- Activity-based risk assessments in place for specialised teaching spaces, research spaces and laboratories.
- Building-specific inductions developed.
- New cleaning strategies implemented.
- Teaching spaces designed to enable safe use.
- Communications to students explaining measures and expected behaviours including videos, posters and Q&A sessions.
- COVID Working Guide published to support the safe reopening, ramping-up and return of staff and students to campus.
- Activity-based risk assessments in place for specialised teaching spaces, research spaces and laboratories.
It is testimony to the skills and experience of colleagues across the University that we were able to respond so quickly to ever-changing public health legislation and government guidance, to provide competent advice and support.

Jason Parr Head of Health and Safety
Thank you

• **15** Safety & Health Services staff contributing to the delivery of expert advice and guidance for managing safety and occupational health risks.

• **150+** safety champions such as SSAs and technical staff responding to COVID challenges, educating staff and students locally.

• **55** DSE equipment co-ordinators supporting homeworking equipment delivery.

• **35** new first aiders who joined our existing 300 qualified first aid volunteers.

• **8,000** staff members across the University who each play a crucial role in maintaining good health and safety at work.