Occupational Health Service

bristol.ac.uk/safety/occupational-health
Health surveillance

What is it?
There is a UK requirement under health and safety law to risk assess hazards at work which could potentially cause harm to health.

Health surveillance is identified from this risk assessment and involves periodic health checks of employees. Your line manager should inform you of any potential hazardous exposures.

Health surveillance through Occupational Health is part of the framework in place to detect work-related ill health at an early stage, and act on the results.

Why do we do it?
At the University of Bristol we undertake health surveillance when an individual is exposed to a hazard, which can be linked to an identifiable disease or health effect. This will assist in monitoring measures to control exposure.

Who is it for?
Staff groups including staff exposed to:

- respiratory sensitisers which can cause asthma,
- specific animals, rodents, wood dust, solder fumes, or substances such as aldehydes,
- noise and vibration,
- pathogens such as TB.

Managers’ responsibilities

- Complete a risk assessment detailing the potential need for health surveillance.
- Fill out a health surveillance referral form: bristol.ac.uk/safety/occupational-health/contact/forms.
- Ensure prompt referral to Occupational Health if a member of staff reports ill health symptoms that could be related to the working environment.

How you can help
Report any possible work-related symptoms you may experience to your manager or Occupational Health. Read the information on the specific hazard which will be provided at your Occupational Health appointment. Use the personal protective equipment (PPE) which your manager provides and report any difficulties.

How to contact us:
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Tel: (0117) 33 17655
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