Emergency Preparedness in the New Work Environment

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MEDICAL COLLEGES PROMOTE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Faculty, staff and students participate in general safety orientations entering medical colleges and institutes of higher education. Annual exercises or safety fairs refresh preparedness and safety protocols and promote shared responsibility to recognize risks.

IN-PERSON SAFETY INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING

Very basic information is provided to promote everyone's responsibility to avoid un-safe practices and to recognize potential hazards in their workplace.

2020 Emergency Preparedness Disaster Exercises

- Depending on the current Risk Assessment at your organization, one or more of these scenarios drive annual disaster exercises.
- These drills are critiqued and scored for their potential to cause serious injury and disruption to university operations.

- **Biological Contamination**
- **Power Outages**
- **Civil Unrest**
- **Weather Emergencies**
- **Fire**
- **Earthquake**
- **Chemical Spill**
- **Bomb threats or explosives**
- **Active Shooters**
- **Water Outages**
- **Power Outages**

Safety is the First Priority

- **As safety guidelines during the current pandemic reduced the capacity of personnel at medical colleges, the time-tested benefit of workspace neighbors alerting one another is similarly reduced.**
- **Response protocols in most emergencies require immediate notification to building occupants and persons who expect to access the buildings. This is usually accomplished through;**
  - **Detection systems transmitting electronically to monitoring stations.**
  - **Emergency announcements piped through building Public Address systems**
  - **Digital communications to networks, social media, computers, phones.**
  - **Person to person communication when proximity permits**

Changes in physical spacing and building capacities require re-thinking safety responsibilities.

Colleges are preparing for the gradual reopening of campuses

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- **The COVID pandemic has resulted in increased loneliness, stress, anxiety, and depression, among many Americans, including college students.***

College Mental Health Support Services will promote resources through multiple platforms.

- **Essential employees, contractors and deliveries must observe CDC guidelines.**

Security personnel engage anyone on campus to maintain distancing protocols.

- **The built environment maintains HVAC, water systems and enhanced cleaning regimens.**

Facilities Maintenance departments monitor building systems for peak performance.

- **Content created by Nicole Hadler, University of Michigan Medical School, Class of 2021*

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- ***Is there COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment readily available for distribution to essential personnel?***
- ***Does the Community Relations department acknowledge and support the neighboring communities in their testing or vaccination efforts?***
- ***Is there an effective Access Control process to restrict building occupancy?***
- ***Is there a smooth and consistent method for the delivery of supplies for research labs?***
- ***Are there walk thru inspections to support safety behavior in labs?***

Emergency Preparedness and Safety Protocols Can Be Flexible

Resources for HVAC Links to ASHRAE Updates;
https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/technical%20resources/covid-19/ashrae-etf-laboratory-one-page-guidance.pdf

https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/technical%20resources/covid-19/guidance-for-re-opening-buildings.pdf

https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/technical%20resources/covid-19/guidance-for-the-re-opening-of-schools.pdf