Safety Department Report – **January – April 2020**

**Biological News**

**New version of Bio-form**

Version 7.3 of the Bio  form has been launched and can be found in the [forms](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/safety/forms/) section of the Safety Department webpage.

**Plant Health**

On Tuesday the 12th of November 2019   DEFRA / APHA Plant Health conducted a routine annual inspection of Imperial Colleges plant health licensed premises.  The inspector expressed his gratitude that all the PIs attended the inspections and was delighted with the level of active engagement from the post docs and research staff.  The visit was a success with only minor comments which were discussed with those concerned at the time.

**CL3 Inspections in 2020**

The annual inspection of CL3 facilities will commence in February 2020. Pre-inspection information requests have been emailed to relevant PIs and laboratory managers.

**Microbiological safety cabinet training**

The e-learning [Microbiological safety cabinets](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/staff-development/safety-training/safety-courses-/mscs/) training module is now live on the learning and development centre webpage. The training is aimed to all staff and students who are new to working with microbiological safety cabinets.

**Novel coronovirus**

A novel corona virus (CoV) has just been identified in the cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China. About 60 people have been infected since the end of December 2019, with 7 of those patients classed as critically ill. According to first reports, this novel CoV does not seem to transmit easily from person-to-person, but more details will hopefully be published soon.

Coronaviruses primarily infect the upper respiratory and gastrointestinal tract of mammals and birds, there are 6 (7 with this newly identified CoV) known human CoV. Most human CoV cause mild to moderate upper-respiratory tract illness, like the common cold, however SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV have caused severe symptoms. Human CoV are listed as Hazard Group 2, or Hazards group 3 for MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV. This new CoV will likely be classified as Hazard Group 3 in first instance.

New pathogens create unique research opportunities for our scientists and our role is to facilitate their work in compliance with legal requirements. If there is an intention to conduct research on the newly identified CoV, we will need to notify the HSE.  Realising this will be a fast-moving field, could you encourage your PIs to involve the Bioteam early in any discussions regarding research with this new

virus or with patient samples that potentially could contain it? We can then proceed quickly to obtain the necessary approvals.

**New College Policies & Procedures & Agreements**

**Health and Safety Memorandum of Understanding**

The Health and Safety Memorandum of Understanding for Imperial College London and Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was signed off in 2019. This followed a protracted period of review. The document and associated arrangements will be available shortly on the Safety Department’s webpages.

**Radiation News**

**Revised Ionising Radiation Protection Policy**

The revised version of the College Radiation Protection Policy (PC-14) has been published on the radiation protection webpage.

[www.imperial.ac.uk/safety/safety-by-topic/laboratory-safety/ionising-radiation-safety](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/safety/safety-by-topic/laboratory-safety/ionising-radiation-safety)

The policy has been revised allow Departments the freedom to locally register personnel who are engaged in work with intrinsically safe, fully enclosed x-ray systems. Personnel working with other systems, which may pose a significantly higher radiation risk, including equipment operated within Controlled or Supervised radiation areas, will continue to subject to personnel registration with the College’s Safety Department.

It is hoped that this change, together with the reduced training prerequisites for personnel working in non-designated areas, will simplify the process for individuals and Departments engaged in these very low risk work activities.

**College Safety Forum**

**2 December 2019**

The latest College Safety Forum heard from a variety of speakers on Safety issues! The presentations will be loaded onto the College Safety Forum section of the Safety website shortly. We are already looking for speakers for our summer edition on Monday 8 June 2020 – please let d.hickey@imperial.ac.uk know if you have something in mind you want to let the wider Safety community here. If you don’t currently see invites to the Forum, please let d.hickey@imperial.ac.uk know, and we will ensure you get an invite nearer the time.

**Safety Department News**

**Trainee Biological Safety Officer Secondment**

We are welcoming Beth Wallis to the team, who was successful in applying for the secondment to central Safety as the Trainee Biological Safety Officer. Beth will be closely shadowing the team over the next few months, and supporting the central Safety team in a variety of work, to complement her existing work experience, learning more about the functions of the team, and how our work impacts on departmental operations. We look forward to showing her the ropes!

**Happy New Year**

The Safety Department would like to wish all of our colleagues across the College a very Happy New Year, and all the best for 2020!