



## December 2020

What a year it has been! At times it felt as if it would never end, but here we are looking forward to the shutdown period just days away.

Before we go, we have one last newsletter for the year, with an important update on Project Salus and reminders about end of year waste collections, parties, and the transition to the 7th edition of the GHS starting in January. Oh, and there's a shiny new PPE vending machine on upper campus as one last reminder that this has been a year like no other.

Have a wonderful holiday season everyone! See you next year!!



### Project Salus Update

Another month of hard work for the Project Salus Team!

We have revised our WHS Monitor implementation plan and adopted a multi-release approach for the roll out. The first release, planned for mid-April, will deliver Hazard Management, Incident Management and Inspections, together with related Dashboards and Reporting. The first release will also include migration of staff and student profiles for access, and location data to be used in WHS Monitor. This new approach will mitigate the initial impact of change to the end users. It will also enable them to better adapt to the new system.

Meanwhile, the team is continuing work on system configuration with the aim of having Hazard Management completed by the Christmas break and Incident Management configuration ready for review and feedback by early January.

For updates and more information about Project Salus, visit the [Project Salus website](#). You can also contact the project directly on [salus@unsw.edu.au](mailto:salus@unsw.edu.au) or alternatively, feel free to reach out to your [local WHS contact](#).



### Working during shutdown

If you get an exemption to work on campus during the end-of-year shutdown, this is considered 'after-hours' work and therefore you must have safety measures in place due to the increased risk associated with lack of emergency response support. People working in labs or workshops carrying out medium to high risk activities must have an approved [HS703 Working Alone or After Hours Approval Form](#) and have a buddy system in place. Full details are in the [HS322 Working Alone or After Hours Guideline](#).



## Snip the Straps

The RSPCA in the UK has appealed to the public to snip the straps of disposable masks before disposing of them, to stop animals from becoming entangled in the straps. Although we don't use as many face masks in Australia as they are currently using in the UK, it is still worth remembering that animals can become entangled in face masks just as they can become tangled in the plastic rings from milk bottles.

So, before you chuck them in the bin, snip the straps!

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## Reducing waste while being Covid Safe

Some people were unable to access the link in this article in the November Safety newsletter, so we have updated the link and are re-running the article here.

UNSW retailers have returned to accepting reusable cups and containers after a temporary pause due to initial Covid safety concerns. Such concerns have incentivised an increase in single-use plastic across the world. Nine months into the pandemic, it is timely to reflect on how we can protect both our health and the environment. [Click here](#) to learn how you can avoid single-use plastic and still be Covid safe.

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## Transition to 7th Revised Edition of GHS

The Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals ([GHS](#)) is a global method of classifying chemicals and preparing labels and safety data sheets ([SDS](#)). It gives users practical, consistent and easy to understand information about chemical [hazards](#) and helps them take steps to protect their health and safety.

The 3rd revised edition of the GHS (GHS 3) was implemented in Australia on 1 January 2012 and is currently the only system that can be used for developing labels and SDS for workplace hazardous chemicals in all Australian states and territories.

On 1 January 2021, Australia will begin a two-year transition to the 7th revised edition of the GHS (GHS 7). During the transition, manufacturers and importers may use either GHS 3 or GHS 7 to prepare classifications, labels and SDS for hazardous chemicals. From 1 January 2023, only GHS 7 may be used.

For more information on the transition, [click here](#).

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## End of Year Parties

As we approach the festive season don't let your end of year party be spoilt by an incident. Familiarise yourself with the UNSW [HS825 Alcohol and Drugs Procedure](#) including the UNSW No Open Container Code. Also, the UNSW Code of Conduct sets out the principles for behaviour. Top tips for a fun (and safer) party: Set a definite start and end time, make sure that everyone has a safe way to get home, check the venue in advance for any obvious hazards, ensure there is plenty of substantial food and water available, have a designated person who can deal with

any issues, don't give offensive secret Santa gifts.

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## End of Year Waste Collection

A quick reminder to get laboratory waste out before shutdown. There will be no waste collected during the shutdown period. Different times are applicable to each of the streams so please make sure you adhere to the below schedule. Waste generated during shutdown should be kept in the laboratory in a safe manner. Refer to your local Safety Contact if you require more information.

### Chemical Waste

2020 Last collections: Submit online paperwork by midday on 15 December 2020. Last collection will be 17 December 2020.

2021 New Year Start Dates: Submit online paperwork by midday on 5th January 2021. First collection will be 7th January 2021.

### Biological Waste

2020 Last collections: Last collection will be 18th December 2020.

2021 New Year Start Dates: First collection will be 7th January 2021.

Upper campus Bio waste store collections will continue throughout the UNSW break, except during public holidays.

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## Hazards of working in heat and air pollution

Working in heat and/or air pollution can be hazardous and cause harm to workers in both indoor and outdoor work environments. Employers must take precautions this summer and know the risks of working in heat and/or air pollution and protect worker health and safety.

Over the ten years to 2019, there were 1,774 workers' compensation claims resulting from working in heat. Of these, 1,679 were from working in the sun.

- 940 claims were cancer related
- 441 claims were regarding heat stroke or heat stress
- 95 claims were from working in hot indoor conditions

For more information, visit the [Safe Work Australia](#) website and view their working in heat resources.

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## New PPE Vending Machine on Upper Campus

There is a very new (and shiny) PPE Vending machine located in the E26/D26 foyer. If you arrive on campus and need to hunt down a reusable face mask, safety glasses or disposable gown then head to upper campus. Just as you enter the Biological Sciences Building (next to the lifts) you will see the new vending machine. During normal business hours anyone can enter the building and make a purchase, so drop past and check it out!

A reminder that re-usable masks are not always appropriate for all laboratories so make sure you check the requirements for your lab.