University of Huddersfield Occupational Health Department

Spirometry surveillance information leaflet

The University’s Occupational Health Department provides health surveillance for University staff exposed to hazards whilst at work. Examples are fumes, chemicals and dust. The University has a duty of care to check that hazards are not affecting your health and that the safeguards in place are working correctly to protect your health and safety.

**What is the purpose of the Spirometry programme?**

* The respiratory health surveillance programme is for employees who have been identified through risk assessments in their work area that they are at possible risk of being exposed to respiratory sensitisers as part of their role.
* It is used to measure the effectiveness of Personal Protective Equipment
* Can enable any respiratory problems to be caught at an early stage.
* An educational and motivational tool
* The initial test at the start of employment is used as a baseline and the annual test is used to determine if there are any problems.

**What to expect from spirometry surveillance**

* The spirometry test appointment will usually last approximately 30 minutes.
* You will be seen by one of the occupational health nurses and they will go through a list of health questions with you at the appointment.
* You will receive a copy of your spirometry results and re call date.
* You will also receive a copy of the spirometry results certificate advising if any further action is required.
* A copy of this certificate will also be sent to your manager.

The spirometry programme of appointments is as follows:

Initial baseline at the start of employment

Follow up at 6 weeks

Follow up at 12 weeks

Follow up at annual intervals unless results indicate increase in frequency

**Wear protective equipment to help prevent damage caused by coming into contact with respiratory sensitiser**

More information can be found at HSE Control of Substances Hazardous to Health regulations (2002)

[Control of Substances Hazardous to Health regulations 2002](http://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/)

For further information please contact the occupational health department on 01484 471800 or occupational.health@hud.ac.uk