



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Monthly Newsletter July 2003

◆ **2003 NASA Occupational Health Conference:** The annual conference in San Diego is almost here. If you have any questions about your hotel reservations, conference registration, airport transportation, or any other related information on the conference please contact Sandy Kreer, in the Occupational Health Support Office at 321-867-3164, or look on-line at the [OH Conference Information page](#).



◆ **Resources for Medical Policy Procedures and Questions:** Are you feeling overwhelmed with managing needlessticks and other occupational exposures? Consider accessing the following resources:

**PEPline 1-888-448-4911, The National Clinician's Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Hotline offers health care providers free, state-of-the-art advice on managing occupational exposures to HIV and Hepatitis B & C.

**www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/guide/phssep.htm contains complete documents on implementing PEP practices in healthcare facilities, management of occupational blood exposures and basic & expanded HIV PEP regimens.

◆ **Are you or your employees preparing for the COHN exam?** Each Clinic will be receiving one copy of the Occupational Health and Safety Principles and Nursing Certification Review manual along with one copy of the companion audio CD. Expect the shipment in the September/October 2003 time frame. Both the manual and the CD will be the very latest editions. Annette Haag will be presenting a ViTS for NASA Nurses on Monday *September 22, 2003* from 15:00 to 17:00 EST. The topic: Emerging issues in occupational health nursing to include updates on new OSHA Guidelines, Travel Medicine, Emerging infectious diseases and Workplace violence. Ms. Haag's presentation will be videotaped for future use.

◆ **NASA Health Promotion and Wellness Team:** Elizabeth Nicksich from the Mayo Clinic Health Management Resources will be presenting on 9/15/2003 during our next Health Promotion and Wellness Team ViTS. The topic: Latest developments in health promotion and employee health management industry.

◆ **Final Rule on Recording Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs) on OSHA 300 Log:** OSHA recently announced that the form employers use to record workplace injuries and illnesses will not be modified to include a separate column for musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). Employers will continue to check the column for 'injury' or 'all other illness' depending on the circumstances of the case. For full text of the OSHA press release visit the following location: www.osha.gov

◆ **FDA Approves Needle-Free Flu Vaccine:** The June 18, 2003 Associated Press reported on the recent FDA approval of FluMist, a new nasal-spray flu vaccine. According to the article, the vaccine was approved for healthy people age 5 to 49, but not for people who often are most in need of protection from the flu, such as toddlers, elderly people, and people with asthma or other chronic diseases. According to the article, FluMist is made by MedImmune Vaccines Inc. and the company says 4 to 6 million doses will be available by October of this year. The company also said that FluMist will cost about \$46 a dose, which is more than twice the cost of the injected flu vaccine. For further information and additional related news articles please see the University of Michigan's School of Public Health website at: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/HEALTH/conditions/06/18/flu.spray.ap/>.

◆ **NASA Center OSHA VPP Activity:** At the conclusion of an early July visit by OSHA to KSC, NASA at KSC was recommended for the OSHA VPP STAR program. Congratulations to all the KSC Health and Safety staff who have been involved with this very noteworthy effort!

◆ **Laboratory Ventilation Standard Updated:** The ANSI/AIHA Z9.5-2003 American National Standard of Laboratory Ventilation is now available. This 111-page standard, last updated in 1992, includes new chapters on performance tests, air cleaning, preventative maintenance, and work practices. Order free on line at www.standards.nasa.gov

◆ **OH NASA Center Evaluation Calendar:**

- Marshall Space Flight Center – July 28-31
- Wallops Flight Facility – September 9-11

◆ **Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:**

- Fitness ViTS – July 30th, 1:30-2:30 EST
- EH ViTS – August 15th, 2:00-3:00 EST
- HP ViTS – September 5th, 1:30-2:30 EST
- Health Promotions ViTS- Sept 15, 3:30-5:00 EST
- Nursing ViTS – September 22, 3:00-5:00 EST

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Send information, comments or questions to:

◆ E-mail - Bart.Geyer-1@ksc.nasa.gov ◆ Telephone - 321-867-3473

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