



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Monthly Newsletter December 2003



Happy Holidays to all OH personnel!

The OCHMO and OH Support Office wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. Best wishes for a healthy, prosperous and safe New Year!!

◆ **NASA OH Website Upgrade:** The NASA OH website will be getting a new look with the New Year and become more user friendly for all visitors. The changes are expected to improve the navigation of the site and to provide the information in a manner more consistent with other NASA websites.

◆ **2004 NASA Safety Managers and Medical and Environmental Health COTR's Meeting:** The 2004 Conference is scheduled for March 1st to 5th, at the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Hotel, Cocoa Beach, Florida. For more information and to register for the meeting please go to the NASA OH website. Rooms should be reserved through the hotel. The cut off for guaranteeing the government rate is Monday, February 2.
http://ohp.ksc.nasa.gov/conference_info/2004/sh_conf/index.htm



◆ **EHR Project Update:** After a successful Task Force meeting in November in which members identified key elements required for an electronic health record (EHR), the EHR team continues to develop the technical and functional requirements of the candidate system for the NASA procurement office. The team anticipates submission of the requirements to the procurement office in the 2nd quarter in hopes of a vendor selection by the end of this fiscal year. An EHR Task Force ViTS is scheduled for January 6th in which members will support this effort.

◆ **Update on OCHMO Strategic Planning Effort:** The draft *Strategic Planning Committee Report* document has been circulated to all 14 of the NASA centers and facilities and initial feedback has been received. All comments on the report were due by December 22. A list of NASA Center Strategic Planning representatives and their alternates has also been developed to aid in the continued development of the plan. For additional information on the strategic plan, please contact Janine Scoville in the OCHMO office at 321-867-2961.

◆ Updates on Health Promotion Activities:

Influenza vaccinations - To date 13 centers have reported that they have vaccinated a total of 19,888 individuals. Eleven centers have sent our office 14,103 high risk flu surveys. As soon as the campaign is completed, the detailed analyses of the data will be presented via a future ViTS.

◆ **Obesity Recommendations:** The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force has recommended that clinicians screen all adults for obesity using the Body Mass Index (BMI), which the Task Force said is a valid and reliable screening test. Clinicians may also consider measuring patients for centrally located body weight, which is independently associated with cardiovascular disease, using waist circumference as a measure.
<http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/3rduspstf/obesity/obesrr.htm>.
A BMI calculator can be found at
<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/bmi/calc-bmi.htm>.

◆ **Professional Occupational Health Conferences in 2004:** In addition to the *NASA Occupational Health Conference* in Williamsburg, VA on June 21-25, below are some of the primary Occupational Health conferences that NASA center representatives will attend in 2004:

- *American Occupational Health Conference (ACOEM)*, Kansas City, MO, 4/30-5/7/04
- *Aerospace Medical Association (AsMa)*, Anchorage, AK, 5/3-5/5/04
- *American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition (AIHCE)*, Atlanta, GA, 5/8-5/13/04
- *American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM)*, Indianapolis, IN, 6/2-6/05/04
- *Health Physics Society (HPS) Annual Meeting*, Washington DC, 7/11-7/15/04
- *Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA)*, San Francisco, CA, 11/18-11/20/04

◆ NASA OH Center Evaluation Calendar:

- January 13 -15 – Kennedy Space Center
- February 9-11 – Michoud Assembly Facility
- February 11-13 – Stennis Space Center

◆ Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:

- EAP ViTS – January 5th, 3:00-4:00 PM EST
- EHR ViTS – January 6th, 1:30-3:00 PM EST
- Fitness ViTS – January 12th, 3:30-4:30 PM EST
- EH ViTS – January 16th, 2:00-3:00 PM EST

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