



New & Upcoming

- OSU has a new Biological Safety Officer, Debra De Loach, PhD. Her contact information can be found here: <https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/bio>

- Bloodborne Pathogen and Lab BSL-2 Training is now offered twice a month with both Zoom and in-person options. Sign up via [SciShield](#).

- There is a new online Bloodborne Pathogen (BBP) awareness training module for non-lab workers available for employees at risk for BBP exposure (e.g., DPS, athletic trainers, janitorial staff). Take this course on [SciShield](#).

Safety Culture Task Force

The university's provost, executive vice president, and the vice presidents for finance and administration and research jointly charged a [Workplace Safety Culture Task Force](#) to develop recommendations that align with best practices articulated by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities ([APLU](#)). The eleven recommendations support OSU's goal to foster and strengthen a university-wide culture that values and emphasizes workplace safety. Implementation of the recommendations has begun. The first recommendation to be addressed is performing a Safety Perception Survey that is currently underway. The survey is being administered through the National Safety Council ([NSC](#)). Results from the survey will help inform prioritization of safety initiatives. Encourage all employees to complete the [Safety Perception Survey](#) by April 15th.



Autoclave Testing

- Oregon Public Health requires most autoclaves to be tested monthly.
- Don't forget to work with EHS to get your autoclave test kit!
- More information: <https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/autoclave-testing>

Office Ergonomic Tips

- Adjust your chair so that your feet are flat on the floor, your seat is at kneecap height, and your back is supported. The angle at the knees should be about 90 degrees. A lumbar cushion can help if your chair does not support your back effectively.
- Your keyboard and mouse should be at elbow level or below. You can use 2x4s or desk risers to make your desk higher, if needed.
- Position computer screen about an arm's length away and in a position that avoids glare. Your eyes should be viewing the top 1/3rd of the monitor. Use paper or books to raise your monitor if needed.
- Get up and move every hour.

[OSU SAIF](#) offers a free online ergonomic assessment. Contact EH&S for a login.

Drying Oven Safety

Drying ovens have been the source of multiple incidents involving losses over the years. There are certain safety precautions that must be taken in order to prevent an incident, such as a fire.

- Drying ovens should not be left on indefinitely.
- Avoid putting plastic in drying ovens.
- Avoid storing materials on the bottom of the drying oven in contact with heating elements. Use shelves to elevate drying material and isolate from heating elements.
- Drying ovens must have preventative maintenance based on the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Ideally, ensure your unit has a temperature safety device installed, which cuts power when exceeding a fixed temperature.

https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/sites/ehs.oregonstate.edu/files/pdf/si/drying_ovens_si.pdf