

A Health and Safety Bulletin from

UI HealthWorks and WORKSAFE IOWA

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Immunization Awareness Month

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), sees vaccination as a "community effort," offering important protection from infectious diseases, and designates August as National Immunization Awareness Month. It's a good time for education on this topic; parents are enrolling their children in school, students are entering college, and healthcare workers are preparing for the upcoming flu season. People have various objections and fears concerning vaccination, from religious beliefs to opinions about government interference to safety concerns. Meanwhile, workers' productivity is impacted by vaccine-preventable diseases when they result in doctors' visits and hospitalizations or sick children cause parents to miss work.

CDC (Adult Immunization Schedule) - www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/adult-schedule.htm

CDC (Vaccine-preventable Adult Diseases) - www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/adult-vpd.htm

CDC (Some Common Misconceptions) - www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/6mishome.htm

Immunization Action Coalition (Potential New Vaccine 2009) - www.immunize.org/journalarticles/toi_poten.asp

ATTN Female Workers

NIOSH has released a new podcast (audio file distributed via the internet) on "Workplace Safety and Women." The 7-minute interview with Dr. Naomi Swanson focuses on issues unique to female workers. Dr. Swanson, chief of the Organizational Science and Human Factors Branch at NIOSH, contributed her expertise on occupational stress. Other topics include pregnancy and reproductive health (developed by Tina Lawson and Barbara Grajewski), demanding work schedules (Teri Palermo and Claire Caruso), and workplace violence (Daniel Hartley and Paula Grubb).

CDC - Podcasts - www2a.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=11503%20

Encouraging PPE Use

At the 2006 National Safety Council Congress attendees were asked if they had ever observed workers failing to wear PPE when they should have—87% said yes. Why? top reasons were uncomfortable, unnecessary, too hot, and unattractive. A safety professional with 18 years of experience offers concrete suggestions to encourage PPE usage.

safetyXchange (8 Ways to Get Workers to Wear PPE) -

www.safetyxchange.org/training-and-leadership/8-ways-workers-wear-ppe

Can Twitter Improve Workplace Safety?

For people over a certain age, "tweets" still suggests birdsong. But for many it refers to the instant short online messages sent via the free social networking platform known as Twitter. A 21st century time waster supreme? Or a communication tool that can supplement your safety efforts? You decide.

safetyXchange (Using Twitter to Enhance Safety) -

www.safetyxchange.org/training-and-leadership/twitter-enhance-safety

140 Health Care Uses for Twitter -

<http://philbaumann.com/images/140-health-care-uses-for-twitter.pdf>

IOSH (discussion forums) - www.iosh.co.uk/index.cfm?go=discussion.view&forum=1&thread=41907

UI HealthWorks is a member of the WORKSAFE IOWA Occupational Medicine Associate Network, the only university-affiliated network of occupational health providers. WORKSAFE IOWA is an outreach program of the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health in the College of Public Health at the University of Iowa (www.public-health.uiowa.edu/worksafe).