

SSHE Newsletter 2/2022

ETH Zurich, Safety, Security, Health and Environment SSHE
October 2022



1 New ETH Zurich Strategy for Corporate Influenza Vaccination

ETH Zurich's flu vaccination campaign was already scaled back last year due to the pandemic and the limited availability of vaccines. Against the current financial background of ETH Zurich, as well as due to the limited availability of vaccines, the decision was made to no longer carry out the vaccination campaign in this manner. In the workplace context, vaccinations are important for healthcare workers, such as medical students before they start their clinical internships, since patient protection is the primary concern in this area. For all other ETH Zurich members, vaccination is possible outside ETH Zurich on the Swiss National Flu Vaccination Day, or from mid-October to December at a pharmacy or doctor's office of your choice. Members of ETH Zurich who decide to receive the [flu vaccination](#) (in German only) due to their individual health situation can also be vaccinated there. The costs are covered by the basic insurance for persons with an increased risk of complications after deduction of the deductible and the patient's contribution.

The federal health department's vaccination [recommendation](#) (in German only) regarding COVID-19 for fall 2022 has taken effect on 10 October 2022. The focus here lies on protecting particularly vulnerable individuals from serious illness. A COVID-19 booster vaccination can be combined with the flu vaccination.

2 Shift of the Alarm Organisation to Facility Services

In accordance with the decision of the Vice President for Infrastructure, Prof. Ueli Weidmann, the Alarm Organisation Section (AO) of the SSHE Department will be transferred to the Facility Services Department as of 1 January 2023. The aim of this organisational adjustment is to bring together those units that ensure the daily operation, safety, operational availability of buildings and facilities on site. The organisational details were worked out together over the course of the year.

The tasks of the AO, particularly in the areas of safety, security, health and environmental protection, remain unchanged. Their operational capability for the safety of ETH Zurich members will continue to be given top priority; but the focus will also remain on the rapid rectification of technical faults. AO staff will therefore continue to complete all relevant training and further education courses. As a result of this relocation, the Facility Services Department will become an integral partner to customers for all campus use concerns – seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Cooperation with SSHE will be key to maintaining the good work of the AO in the future, as many interfaces with the various SSHE sections remain.

The AO is looking forward to working at Facility Services and also to continue working with SSHE in the future.

3 Maintenance of Biosafety Cabinets

Only a regularly and properly maintained biosafety cabinet (BSC) ensures adequate protection against aerosol-transmissible organisms in biological laboratories. For BSC maintenance, some service companies offer various "maintenance packages". These often differ significantly in price and scope. In addition, some of these services do not have very meaningful names, so that it is often not clear to the biosafety officers at first glance what exactly is being maintained with the respective service and whether the requirements of personal and environmental protection are also being checked in addition to product protection. The latter check is particularly key in BSL2 laboratories, where not only airborne contamination of products must be prevented, but infectious organisms must not be released into the laboratory air.

Should you conclude a new service contract for your BSC, please note that the corresponding checks are included in the maintenance scope. Even with existing contracts, it's worth looking at the details and making adjustments if necessary to ensure that your BSCs are safe for use in your BSL2 labs.

<p>Mikrobiologische Sicherheitswerkbank</p> <p>Vorhandene Filter:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abluftfilter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Umluftfilter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Zuluftfilter</p>  <p>Klasse:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> II <input type="checkbox"/> III <input type="checkbox"/> Zyto. <input type="checkbox"/> Sonstiges</p>	<p>Wartung</p> <p>Geprüfte Filter:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abluftfilter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Umluftfilter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Zuluftfilter</p> <p>Geprüft:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Personen/Umgebungsschutz</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Produkteschutz</p> <p>Freigabe für Arbeiten auf Stufe:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> S1 <input type="checkbox"/> S2 <input type="checkbox"/> S3</p>	<p>Kantonale Fachstellen Biosicherheit</p> 
<p>Datum</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Techniker</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Kontrolle durch</p> <p>FIRMENLOGO</p>	<p>Bemerkungen</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bestanden (nach gegebener Norm)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Nicht Bestanden</p> <p>Nächster Service</p> <p>_____</p>

Maintenance sticker as recommended by the Cantonal Biosafety Specialist Offices.

4 Theft of ETH Zurich Property during Holidays

In the past, it has unfortunately happened time and again that ETH Zurich property (e.g. laptops, tablets, photo cameras, mobile phones) was stolen during holidays at home or abroad. To reduce the risk of theft, we have the following advice for you:

- Whenever possible, refrain from taking ETH Zurich property with you on holiday.
- Do not leave material/luggage unattended (even if it is only "for a very short time") in public places – insurance usual does not pay in cases of "simple theft" (i.e. without breaking in / breaking open).
- So do not leave material visible from the outside in the vehicle, in the home or in your room.
- Do not store ETH Zurich material where different/unknown persons have access (e.g. in luggage storage rooms in hotels).

Please note that ETH Zurich property is only insured during business trips. In case of holidays and private stays abroad, only your private travel insurance or household contents insurance may cover the damage. Be sure to report all incidents involving ETH Zurich property to [SSHE Security](#). Together with the [Financial Services](#) Department, we will examine the situation and support you as much as possible.

It is best to leave ETH Zurich equipment at home during your holidays. Relax and enjoy your days off.

5 Early Retirement of the Long-Serving Head of SSHE

Katherine (nickname: Cookie) Timmel Zamboni, has headed the SSHE Department from October 2007 to October 2022. Through her broad professional experience, both nationally and internationally (NGOs, consultancies, industry), she has shaped the work of SSHE over the years, both in terms of organisation and content. Together with the SSHE team, she was particularly concerned with the further development of the various services for ETH Zurich members as well as ensuring optimal advice from the SSHE experts. This also included questioning processes and interfaces within the Central Administrative Units

in order to find pragmatic and efficient solutions. She placed particular importance on the SSHE staff not losing their sense of humour, enjoyment of and laughter in their work – due to its task of ensuring legal compliance, the SSHE Department was and is not always only viewed positively. And, last but not least, it was a great concern of hers to enable a quick and competent intervention in case of incidents by the Alarm Organisation and the SSHE specialists.

Cookie Timmel will take early retirement at the end of October 2022. The SSHE team sincerely thanks her for the years together, the great and intensive cooperation and wishes her all the best for her future activities.

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<https://ethz.ch/staffnet/en/service/safety-security-health-environment.html>