

ORS News2Use

Fall 2014 Issue

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Foil the Flu at NIH

Every year, the flu affects between 5% and 20% of all U.S. residents. The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by a number of different viruses. Seasonal influenza usually starts in the fall and peaks in January or February.

“Foil the Flu,” the annual seasonal influenza immunization program for NIH employees and contractors, was designed to help prevent seasonal influenza and is strongly encouraged.

So far, Occupational Medical Service (OMS) has administered 15,520 doses of the vaccine since September 15, the first day of the campaign. Almost half (49.8%) of the vaccine re-

cipients completed the electronic survey and the results indicate that program efficiency has improved significantly, albeit with room for further improvement.

The survey revealed the following:

- ◆ 79% of recipients received their shot within 5 minutes of arrival
- ◆ 15% of recipients had to wait between 6-10 minutes after arrival
- ◆ 5% of recipients had to wait between 11-20 minutes after arrival
- ◆ 1% (120 cases or so) had to wait more than 20 minutes



The majority of the cases waiting more than 20 minutes occurred during the first week of the campaign at off-campus locations. Next year, OMS will increase staffing to reduce those delays.

The most frequent complaint from the survey was the inadequate supply of the high-dose (continued on page 4)...

The NEW Porter Neuroscience Conference Center

The new Porter Neuroscience Conference Center officially opened for business this past spring. This state of the art conference center is composed of 4,600 square feet. This space can be set up as one large conference room or divided into 2 or 3 conference rooms depending on the need and number of attendees. See the chart to the right for the various setups available for the conference center. Please note that the first number reflects a “comfortable” seating capacity while the second reflects a “compact” seating capacity. (continued on page 4)...

Conference Room	Theater Style	Conference Style (with Perimeter Seating)	Hollow Square	Classroom Style	Rounds/Banquet Style
Room 640 (Front Section)	*88-100 Seats	32 @ the table w/perimeter for 30-45	*36-44 @ the table Limited perimeter seating	*40-53 @ the table Limited perimeter seating	64 Seats (8 tables w/8 Seats) Limited perimeter seating
Room 610 (Back Section)	*88-100 Seats	32 @ the table w/perimeter for 30-45	*36-44 @ the table Limited perimeter seating	*40-53 @ the table Limited perimeter seating	64 Seats (8 tables w/8 Seats) Limited perimeter seating
Room 620 (Center Section)	*150-170 Seats	32 @ the table w/perimeter for 140	*52-64 @ the table Limited perimeter seating	*80-100 @ the table No perimeter seating	128 Seats (16 tables w/8 Seats) Limited perimeter seating
Front & Center Combined (Rooms 620.640)	250 Seats	*38-48 @ the table w/perimeter for 130-150	*68-88 @ the table Limited perimeter seating	*114-147 @ the table Limited perimeter seating	192 Seats (24 tables w/8 Seats) Limited perimeter seating
Center & Back Combined (Rooms 610.620)	250 Seats	*38-48 @ the table w/perimeter for 130	*68-88 @ the table Limited perimeter seating	*114-147 @ the table Limited perimeter seating	192 Seats (24 tables w/8 Seats) Limited perimeter seating
All Rooms Combined (Rooms 610.620.640)	400 Seats	32 @ the table w/perimeter for 250	*84-106 @ the table Limited perimeter seating	*136-175 @ the table Limited perimeter seating	240 Seats (30 tables w/8 Seats) Limited perimeter seating

Dumpster Dive

The Division of Radiation Safety (DRS), often receives questions asking “What happens if radioactive waste inadvertently gets into the regular waste stream?”

The answer “A dumpster dive!”



This past summer, radioactivity was detected in a dumpster outside of Building 10. The dumpster was relocated to a secure area and preparations were made to remove the radioactive material from the dumpster.

On a sweltering summer day, or fall in our case, a team from DRS, along with assistance from the Division of Environ-

mental Protection (DEP) and Office of Research Facilities (ORF), donned full body plastic coveralls, hoods, goggles, dust masks, booties and gloves to sort through the contents of a 30 cubic yard waste container. Using instruments to monitor for radioactivity, the team began sorting through the contents, which consisted mostly of used animal bedding, trying to isolate the radioactive material. The goal was to isolate and remove the contaminated items and dispose of the remainder as normal waste. After several hours of monitoring, it was determined that the radioactivity was dispersed throughout the entire contents of the dumpster and could not be isolated and removed. The waste was re-loaded into the dumpster.

With the entire contents of the dumpster contaminated, there were only two options: hold the dumpster in a secure area for radioactive decay and disposal as normal waste, or dispose the entire contents of the container as radioactive, which is a very costly proposition. After further analysis, the identification of the radioactive material in question indicated that it was indeed feasible to hold

the dumpster for radioactive decay and disposal as normal waste.

The contamination in the dumpster was from an animal facility that conducted experiments involving radioactive material. A miscommunication between animal facility staff and researchers led to the wrong cages being used to house the animals and “Caution Radioactive Material” labels not being affixed properly. Consequently, the animal facility staff members were unaware that the cages contained contaminated bedding and emptied the contents into the dumpster as usual. To prevent a recurrence of this type of incident, facility procedures were clarified and the researchers were re-trained.

If the dumpster had not been intercepted before leaving the NIH campus, there would have been severe and detrimental consequences to the NIH, e.g., enforcement action from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. This incident serves as a reminder of the importance of complying with all requirements for properly segregating and disposing of radioactive waste. For detailed instructions in handling radioactive waste please view, [The NIH Waste Disposal Guide](#) or call DRS at (301) 496-5774.

Help Prevent Home Fires

Your home should be a safe haven, but do you regularly check for home fire hazards? If not, there is the potential for danger. With a little extra caution, preventing the leading causes of home fires – cooking, heating, electrical, and smoking - is within your power. Make sure your home is safe and inspected for the following fire safety risks:

- ◆ Electrical cords are in good condition (not damaged).
- ◆ Appliances and lights are plugged into separate electrical outlets.
- ◆ All smoke alarms work when tested.
- ◆ All escape routes are clear of clutter and easily accessible.
- ◆ Curtains and other things that can burn are away from the stovetop.
- ◆ Portable space heaters are off whenever left unattended.
- ◆ The clothes dryer has a clean vent and filter (no lint build-up).
- ◆ An adult always stays in the kitchen whenever food is cooking on the stovetop.
- ◆ All extension cords are used safely (not under carpets or across walking areas).
- ◆ Portable space heaters are 3 feet away from anything that can burn.
- ◆ The furnace has been inspected in the past year.
- ◆ The chimney has been inspected and cleaned in the past year.



In addition, you are urged to create a home fire escape plan and to practice 'Exit Drills In The Home' (EDITH) at least twice a year with your family.

If you have any questions on home fire safety, please contact the Division of the Fire Marshal at (301) 496-0487.

Don't Pass a Stopped School Bus, but Do Pass That Message On

Montgomery County Government, Police and Public Schools are teaming up to educate drivers about the importance of complying with Maryland, Virginia and DC laws pertaining to stopped school buses with activated flashing lights and stop arms.



A school bus with lights flashing and stop arm out is hard to miss. Yet drivers continue to either stop for a moment and then proceed, or totally ignore the stop sign and signal and drive right by. Our school-bus-riding children should not have to worry about

that kind of danger. It's a serious problem, but one that community members can help solve by taking an active role in getting the information out.

It's the Law:

When approaching a stopped school bus with activated flashing red lights, the law requires that motorists traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop. The law also requires that motorists approaching the bus from the opposite direction must stop UNLESS there is a physical barrier, such as a median.

Basic Facts:

Currently, there are 25 school bus cameras strategically deployed throughout the County that record vehicles that pass stopped school buses with activated flashing red lights. Those cameras will eventually be deployed on up to 100 buses. These violations are reviewed by the

police department's Automated Traffic Enforcement Unit and citations are mailed to the registered owner. The camera-generated fine is \$125. No points are associated with a citation issued through this program. A citation for the same offense issued by a police officer is \$570 and three points on the license.

In Conclusion:

There were 713 violations recorded last school semester, despite an active public education campaign to make sure that drivers understood the laws pertaining to stopping for school buses. County government, law enforcement and school officials are hoping that to get this important safety message out to more motorists in our County and beyond.

Please don't pass a stopped school bus, but please do help pass this important safety message on to help keep our kids safe!

AlertNIH - The Official Emergency Communication Service for NIH

NIH public safety, human resources, public affairs and facilities representatives, with support from senior leadership, have developed an emergency communication service called AlertNIH. AlertNIH is managed by the Division of Emergency Preparedness and Coordination (DEPC).

During a major crisis, emergency or severe weather event, NIH public safety officials will use AlertNIH to send event updates, warnings and instructions directly to employees' government-owned communication devices. Employees have the ability to opt-in to receive these updates on their personal devices too. In order to enroll your personal device, log in to the NIH Enterprise Directory (NED) and scroll to the bottom of your profile to the sec-

ALERTNIH

The official emergency communication service for the National Institutes of Health - <http://alert.nih.gov>



www.facebook.com/alertnih



www.twitter.com/alertnih

tion titled "AlertNIH." Click the "Edit" button and select the personal devices you wish to receive updates on. NIH employees are also strongly encouraged to update their NED profiles.

AlertNIH has established a presence on several social media platforms and

can be found on Twitter <https://twitter.com/AlertNIH> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AlertNIH>.

For more information or questions about the AlertNIH service, please contact DEPC at (301) 496-1985 or visit <http://alert.nih.gov>.

Foil the Flu at NIH

(continued from front page)... flu vaccine intended for recipients 65 and older. Although the Clinical Center Pharmacy placed an order 10 months in advance of the program for sufficient vaccine to meet demand, the sole manufacturer for the vaccine experi-



enced unforeseen difficulties manufacturing and distributing that product this year. The Pharmacy is exploring other options to avoid a recurrence next year.

Two new open clinic dates for the 2014 Foil the Flu annual influenza immunization program have been added! The new dates are Tuesday, November 18

from 7:30am – 10:30am and Thursday, November 20 from 1:30pm – 3:30pm. All new clinic dates will be held in the Occupational Medical Service (OMS) main clinic in Building 10, Room 6C306.

For more information visit: <http://www.foiltheflu.nih.gov/> or call OMS at (301) 496-4411.

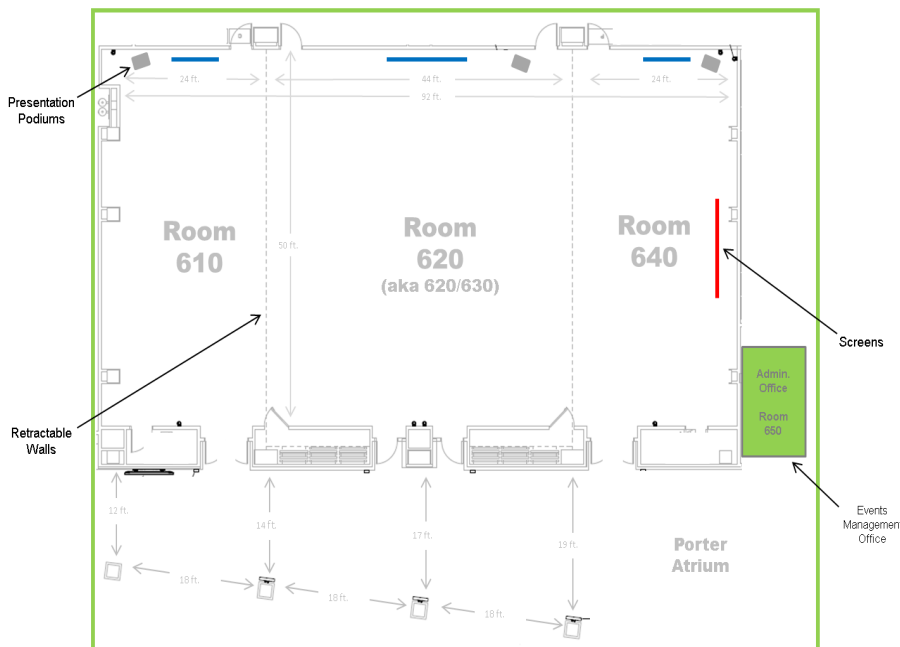
The NEW Porter Neuroscience Conference Center

(continued from front page)... All three conference rooms are equipped with 2K video projection and HD video broadcasts using state of the art components. Audio and video conferencing are available along with Section 508 compliant hearing impaired systems.

NIH Events Management currently manages the Porter Conference Center along with several other conference facilities located on the NIH Bethesda campus. Events Management provides comprehensive conference, meeting and event support for all NIH

conference facilities. These basic services include scheduling space, room set-up and clean-up, computer and video projection equipment, audio equipment, and visual aids such as flip charts and white boards. Supplemental services such as event staffing, dedicated audio and camera technicians, in-house planners, and procurement coordinators can be added for an additional fee based on the length of time and duties.

Porter Neuroscience Conference Center Floor Plan



For more information about Events Management and its conference services, visit <http://www.ors.od.nih.gov/pes/dma/events/services/Pages/default.aspx> or call (301) 432-2208. To book a conference room, visit: http://orsapps.od.nih.gov/DMA/DMAEventRequest/DMA_EventRegister.aspx.

Common Mailing Mistakes: State Abbreviations

Some of the most common mistakes seen by the Division of Mail Management Services (DMMS) involve the incorrect use of the USPS-designated, two-letter state abbreviations. The use of an incorrect state abbreviation can cause a serious delay in the delivery of important documents that could result in missed deadlines and lost research opportunities. See below for some of the most commonly mislabeled state abbreviations.

State	Wrong Abbreviation	Correct Abbreviation
Alaska	AL	AK
Arkansas	AK	AR
Arizona	AR	AZ
Montana	MO	MT
Minnesota	MI	MN
Missouri	MI	MO
Mississippi	MI	MS
Marshall Islands	MI	MH

For more information about properly addressing mail, please contact DMMS at (301) 496 – 3586 or visit the [online mail services guide](#).

NIH RideShare

Does traffic have you down? Do you feel like you waste money driving to work alone? Do you wish you could drive in the HOV Lanes? Have you ever considered Carpooling?

Carpooling at NIH just got easier!



The Division of Amenities and Transportation Services (DATS) is here to help! Recently, through its Commuting and Parking Services (CAPS) IT system, all NIH employees can join and participate in the NIH RideShare Program. This program is a ride-matching service that is only

open to NIH Employees, contractors, guests and fellows regardless of enrollment in Transhare or another program.

The system uses home and work addresses to locate other RideShare members that live within a certain distance of your home address. Due to accuracy, members are encouraged to provide the exact home address. CAPS doesn't share any address information with other members, only distance in miles. The system also captures work schedules for members.

RideShare members are given the option to search for and send e-mails to other members that fall within a mileage radius. Members can decide based on search results, who would receive the "Carpool Interest E-mail."



If RideShare sounds like an interesting or beneficial option to you, simply log into the CAPS and join [here](#).

For more information about RideShare or to obtain a carpool parking permit, please visit:

<http://www.ors.od.nih.gov/pes/dats/CommuterInfo/Pages/rideshare.aspx> or contact the NIH Parking Office at (301) 496-5050.

VFC Symposium

The Division of International Services (DIS), in conjunction with the Visiting Fellow Committee (VFC), a sub-committee of the NIH Fellows Committee (FelCom), hosted the Second Annual Immigration Symposium on October 2, 2014. The event was held at the Natcher Conference Center (Building 45) on the NIH main campus in Bethesda, Maryland. Additional support for the symposium was provided by the NIH Office of Training and Education (OITE).

The VFC symposium is open to all NIH foreign national scientists and offered informational sessions focused on relevant immigration topics to help further scientific careers. Session topics

included changing immigration status, the J-1 Exchange Visitor home residence requirement and special extensions of the J-1, and U.S. Permanent Residence.

Each session lasted approximately 90 minutes, with a 50 minute lecture on the topic and the remainder of the time for questions. There was also a special introduction to the symposium by the DIS Director, Mr. Candelario Za-

pata.

When not attending a session, attendees had the opportunity to pose immigration-related questions to an Immigration Specialist at our Question & Answer booth (fondly known as the "Lucy Booth" from Charlie Brown!).

We plan to make the Immigration Symposium an annual event and look forward to seeing our scientists next Fall!



Recap of DVR's 4th Annual Staff Picnic

This year, the Division of Veterinary Resources (DVR) raised over \$400 at its Annual Staff Picnic! Several staff members participated in the dunk tank, the primary source of fundraising monies. All proceeds were donated to the Children's Inn.

Serving the NIH Community...

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