HEOPS

Health Surveillance in the Higher Education Sector

Policy and Guidance

# Background

The higher education sector has significant and unique qualities that require special consideration

* Very extensive and wide variety of activities
* Handling a wide range of materials many of them novel and handled in unique research situations
* Handling materials with specific and particularly hazardous properties (eg nanoparticulates)
* Very flexible workforce with rapid rotation of personnel and academic management structure often with unclear hierarchies
* This poses problem both in determining the health surveillance that is appropriate and in the delivery of health surveillance programmes that are identified.
* This guidance describes the areas where health surveillance may be appropriate and gives advice on how they may be delivered

# Scope

This document describes the requirements for and the provision of health surveillance in the higher education sector

It concentrates on those activities which are unique to the higher education situation. It includes surveillance required under legislation (eg COSHH) but includes other health surveillance according to current best practice

# Health Surveillance Requirements

Areas where health surveillance may be required

* Research laboratories – chemical, physics, medical
* Animal testing facilities
* Other areas – agriculture, horticulture, art and sculpture, engineering etc

# Health Surveillance Process

* Determining who requires health surveillance (reference to technical guidance to be developed)
* Creating and maintaining the health record
* Procedures for recall and attendance
* Health surveillance procedures and staff competencies (reference to external guidance)
* Auditing surveillance compliance
* Data protection and record keeping
* Measuring and reporting outcomes