



Workplace Safety and Pregnancy

If you are pregnant or considering becoming pregnant, limiting exposure to hazards—both at work and at home—is important. UW-Madison offers resources to help manage and limit workplace hazards.

Information about environmental factors that can affect reproductive health can be found on the following UHS and EHS websites:

General reproductive hazard checklist: uhs.wisc.edu/eoh/reproductive/

Animal-related hazards: ehs.wisc.edu/zoonotic-diseases-and-pregnancy/

Radiation hazards: ehs.wisc.edu/dosimetry-2/

Reproductive hazards can affect both men and women, and can be present before conception. The development of a child's organ systems occurs in the first trimester and is a key period to limit exposure.

Consider the following steps when evaluating reproductive hazards within your workplace:

- Talk with your medical provider about the work activities you perform, particularly any chemicals, drugs, biological or radioactive materials you handle.
- Review the information in the websites above and take steps with your supervisor to assure you have adequate training and protective equipment to perform the work.
- Contact the UHS Occupational Health Program at eoh@uhs.wisc.edu to arrange a reproductive hazard assessment where you will review work activities and materials, and to generate a list of health protection priorities.
- Set up an appointment with the UHS Occupational Medicine physician at 608-265-5610 to discuss pregnancy-related workplace concerns. This appointment is no-cost and available to all UW-Madison faculty, staff, and students.
- In concert with your medical provider, you may decide to request a change in work activity to limit your exposure to workplace hazards that could impact your pregnancy. Contact your Office of Human Resources to discuss the potential for doing so.

The decision to disclose your pregnancy is personal. You cannot be restricted from your work based on reproductive health concerns. If you choose not to disclose, you can make use of the resources mentioned above, including medical consultation. If you choose to disclose, you can work with your supervisor and/or OHR representative to develop a plan that offers the peace of mind you desire.

608.890.1992 | uhs.wisc.edu/eoh