TO:       Building and Emergency Contacts
FROM:    Valerie Brangan
          Occupational Health and Safety Manager
DATE:    October 9, 2017
RE:      Impact of Asbestos Regulations on Purchasing, Project, and Work Order Requests

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO INDIVIDUALS IN YOUR DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR
PURCHASING, PROJECT ADMINISTRATION, OR INITIATING WORK ORDERS

Departments planning renovation or installation projects, equipment maintenance or repair work, or any other activity that will involve the disturbance of building materials (see below), are advised that federal and state (OSHA, EPA, DEEP, DPH) regulations require inspection or testing of suspect materials for asbestos content prior to proceeding, regardless of building age. If the material is found to contain asbestos, abatement by licensed firms will be required.

Departments are responsible for securing the requisite testing in self-funded projects and should bear in mind that the presence of asbestos can cause delays in project completion and may considerably increase the cost of a project. Improper disturbance of building materials can present a health risk to faculty, staff, students, visitors and contractor employees. It also represents a financial risk of fines by regulatory agencies.

Examples of building materials that could contain asbestos include, but are not limited to:
- Pipe insulation, boiler insulation, and pipe-fitting mud and cements
- Plasters, sprayed-on materials, and textured paints on walls, ceilings, or other structural members
- Sheetrock and joint compound, chalkboard/whiteboard adhesives
- Vinyl and asphalt floor tiles and floor sheeting (linoleum), as well as underlayments, cove base, and adhesives
- Ceiling tiles and panels and associated adhesives
- Wallboard, cement board, corrugated roofs, and building siding
- Caulks and sealants, lab bench tops, fume hood walls
- Roof shingles, felt, tar, tar paper, and flashing

Examples of activities that typically require asbestos testing of building materials before they are disturbed include, but are not limited to:
- Equipment installation that requires penetration (nailing, drilling, sawing, boring, etc.) into walls, floors, or ceilings.
- Carpet installations where an older carpet or floor covering must first be removed.
- Service, repair, or renovation work that could potentially disturb building materials listed above.
- Painting operations involving sanding, scraping, or other disturbance of previously painted surfaces, plasters, sheetrock, cement board, or other surfacing materials on walls or ceilings.
- Telecommunications/data and video network cabling installation or relocation.
- Any other activity that could potentially disturb building materials.

Questions related to health and safety information and the regulatory requirements regarding asbestos should be directed to Environmental Health and Safety at 486-3613. All requests for asbestos testing and removal must go through the appropriate Asbestos Coordinator as required in the Asbestos Management Plan.