

Dear Campus Community,

I am writing to thank the 7,000 students who have responded to our call and received their Meningitis B vaccinations on campus, including the 5,500 who did so during one of our four large-scale clinics over the past week. While these efforts have reduced the risk for a substantial portion of campus, we must build upon this initial success.

University Health Services (UHS) has ample vaccine and will continue to provide vaccinations throughout this semester, winter break and the spring semester. This includes a series of five walk-in vaccination clinics prior to the end of the fall semester.

The walk-in vaccination clinics will be held in Room 302 of UHS:

- Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2-6 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 14, 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 15, 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 18, 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 19, 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.

If you received your first dose at UHS before Thanksgiving break you will be able to come in for your second dose during one of these clinics. Check the date you were vaccinated to make sure 28 days have elapsed before you come in. In addition, the extended winter break also provides a convenient time for many students to make arrangements for a vaccination by your family physician.

If you already had your first dose of either Bexsero or Trumenba, the two available Meningitis B vaccines, I remind you to get your next dose on schedule either during the break or when you return to campus in late January. We offer both at UHS.

Fortunately, we have had only two cases of disease during this outbreak, and the two students are recovering. As you prepare for your time away from campus, please remember the “health smart” tips to prevent the spread of meningococcal disease. These measures, recommended by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, include: Do not share anything that comes in contact with the mouth – water bottles, drinking glasses or cups, face masks, towels, eating utensils, cosmetics, lip balm, toothbrushes, smoking materials, kisses, or drinks from a common source. Also, please wash your hands, and cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

For more information on meningococcal disease and news updates to the community, go to www.umass.edu/meningitis.

None of the large-scale clinics could have happened, of course, without the dedicated assistance of many staff across campus as well as College of Nursing students and students from our Emergency Medical Services unit. Thank you, again, to everyone for their assistance during this challenging time. Best wishes to all for a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Sincerely,
George A. Corey, M.D.
Executive Director
University Health Services