

Dear Campus Community,

University Health Services (UHS) is writing to update you regarding the second case of meningococcal disease on campus. We have received confirmation that the diagnosis for the second student is Serogroup B. This is a confirmation that UHS had anticipated.

UHS continues to work in consultation with federal and state public health officials and will be updating advice as more information becomes available.

UHS continues to advise the campus community to take health smart precautions. Don't swap saliva. Avoid sharing food, drinks and personal items that contact saliva, including drinks from punch bowls. Wash hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve. Don't touch your eyes, nose, or mouth—germs spread easily this way. If you are sick, have fever, or other concerns, University Health Services is here to help you.

As a precaution, students may want to receive the Serogroup B vaccine. The vaccine is available at UHS by appointment. Please call 413-577-5101 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to schedule an appointment. Costs for vaccination are billed to your insurance company. Please bring your insurance card to your appointment.

The vaccine may also be available through your local health care provider during the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday break. As with all vaccines, protection is not immediate and should be thought of as a wise precaution for several years to come.

Members of the campus community who have concerns should contact the UHS triage nurse at 413-577-5229.

Additional information on bacterial meningitis may be found at: <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/factsheets/m-o/meningococcal-college-students.pdf>, or by calling the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at (617) 983-6800.

Sincerely,

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