

TO: All Faculty and Staff  
FROM: Kristine Goodwin, Vice President of Student Affairs  
SENT: Thu 8/20/2015 5:01 PM  
SUBJECT: MENINGITIS VACCINATION CLINICS

Dear Faculty and Staff:

In response to last year's meningococcal meningitis outbreak at Providence College, the College, working together with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the RI Department of Health (HEALTH), held a number of clinics to vaccinate about 95% of our student body and prevent further spread of the disease. The vaccine we administered was a three-dose vaccine. We were able to administer the first two doses during the last academic year. Returning students and graduate students will get their third and final dose of the vaccine on Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Transfer students, students returning from study abroad, and any other returning or graduate student who did not get vaccinated last year will have the ability to receive first or second doses on this date as well.

At the recommendation of the CDC and HEALTH, the College also will vaccinate all incoming first year students. The first year student clinic will take place on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. (The email below is a copy of the email that went out to all incoming first year students on Wednesday, 8/19/2015. Similar emails were sent to returning and graduate students, and to all parents.)

While CDC and HEALTH have told us it is not necessary to vaccinate faculty and staff, anyone without a spleen or who is immunocompromised may be eligible to be vaccinated. Faculty or staff with questions should direct them to Elizabeth Walsh in the Office of Human Resources.

\*\*\*\*\*

TO: All First Year Students  
FROM: Kristine Goodwin, Vice President of Student Affairs  
SUBJECT: MENINGITIS VACCINATION CLINIC – SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

As you may already know, Providence College had an outbreak of meningococcal meningitis on campus last year. Two students were hospitalized as a result. Meningitis is a serious, potentially life-threatening disease which may present as sudden onset of fever, headache, and stiff neck. It will often have other symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, increased sensitivity to light and altered mental status and/or a skin rash. The symptoms of bacterial meningitis can appear quickly or over several days. Typically they develop within 3-7 days of exposure. The strain of meningitis that we saw on campus is known as serogroup B, and required the use of a relatively new vaccine (approved by the Food & Drug Administration in October 2014) in order to combat it. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the RI Department of Health (HEALTH) have told us that we are still considered an outbreak site. As a precautionary measure, we have decided to vaccinate our entire first year class.

This vaccine (Trumenba, manufactured by Pfizer) is given in three doses over the course of six months. The vaccination clinic to administer the first dose will take place on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-7:00 p.m. in the Peterson Recreation Center. (A link to the vaccination schedule is below.) All first year students are required to attend and swipe into the clinic. Once you are there, you may choose to receive the vaccine or opt-out of the vaccination. If you choose not to be vaccinated, you will need to sign a form confirming your desire to opt-out.

HEALTH very strongly recommends that students be vaccinated. Last year, the Director of HEALTH told us that, "It is the only responsible thing to do." Prior meningitis vaccinations (Groups A, C, Y, and W-135) students may have received DO NOT protect against the Group B strain of meningitis. Further information about the vaccine and why you should be vaccinated is available here:

<http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/outbreaks/vaccine-serogroupb.html>

In addition, we have a web site which has a great deal of information and answers to many questions. You can access that website here: <http://www.providence.edu/health-center/meningitis/Pages/default.aspx>

The vaccine is licensed for people ages 10-25. There is no cost to any student who wishes to be vaccinated and no proof-of-insurance is necessary for the first dose of this series. A web link to the vaccination schedule is below. All vaccinations will take place on the lower level of Peterson Center, beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Please be prompt in arriving at Peterson Center at the appointed time. This means you need to factor in the time it is going to take you to walk from your residence hall to get to the Peterson Center.

You MUST bring your PC ID card with you to swipe in at the vaccination site.

Link to vaccination schedule: <http://www.providence.edu/health-center/meningitis/Documents/aug-30-vaccination-schedule.pdf>

A small number of students may experience side effects to the vaccine. If, for any reason, you feel that you are having a reaction, please return to the vaccination clinic. If you do not feel well enough to return to the clinic, please call the Office of Safety & Security (401-865-2391) and ask for assistance. If you are not feeling well after the clinic closes at 7:00 p.m., please call 401-865-2888 and an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) will respond to your location. You may also call Health Services at 401-865-2422 if you have any questions. The health center will be open overnight on the night of August 30<sup>th</sup>.

This bacterial infection is spread through direct secretions from the nose or mouth through activities such as kissing; or sharing food, drinks, water bottles, toothbrushes, eating utensils, smoking materials, cosmetics, and lip balms. A person can be a carrier of meningitis without any symptoms. In addition, you may become ill with meningitis even if you have not been in contact with someone who is sick. While this is not an exhaustive list, the following precautions are recommended by HEALTH:

- Don't share food, drinks, smoking materials, eating utensils, cosmetics or lip balm.
- Always cough into a sleeve or tissue.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Use hand sanitizer often.
- Don't drink from a common source such as a punch bowl.

If you or a close contact become sick:

- Report to or call the student health center immediately 401-865-2422.
- Anyone with a high fever should seek medical attention immediately.
- If you see vomit anywhere, do not attempt to clean it up yourself. Please report it to the office of Safety & Security (x2391). They will arrange to have it cleaned.

If you have questions that are not answered by the information in this email or on the web site, please contact the Director of the Student Health Center Kathy Kelleher ([ckellehe@providence.edu](mailto:ckellehe@providence.edu)), the Dean of Students Steve Sears ([ssears@providence.edu](mailto:ssears@providence.edu)), or the Associate Dean of Students Tiffany Gaffney ([tgaffne1@providence.edu](mailto:tgaffne1@providence.edu)).

Thank you for your cooperation and vigilance.

**Kristine C. Goodwin**

Vice President for Student Affairs

Providence College

Tel: 401.865.2144

[Kgoodwi2@providence.edu](mailto:Kgoodwi2@providence.edu)