

TO: All Sophomore, Junior, Senior and Graduate Students  
FROM: Kristine Goodwin, Vice President of Student Affairs  
SENT: Thu 8/20/2015 4:54 PM  
SUBJECT: MENINGITIS VACCINATION CLINIC – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

As you 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 (Trumenba, manufactured by Pfizer) in order to combat it.

Most of you received the first two doses of this vaccine during the last academic year. We are now offering a clinic to administer the third and final dose. That clinic will take place on Saturday, September 5 from 9am – 5pm. For any returning, graduate or transfer students who did not receive either the first or second dose of the vaccine, this clinic is an opportunity for you to begin or continue the three-dose regimen in order to be fully protected. Eligible graduate students are those who are either living or working on campus, any graduate student who is intimately involved in a relationship with an undergraduate student OR a graduate student without a spleen or who is immunocompromised.

In addition to our upperclassmen, as a precautionary measure, we have decided to vaccinate our entire first year class (at a separate clinic).

Like last year, the vaccination clinic will take place in the Peterson Recreation Center. (A link to the vaccination schedule is below.) I am asking all students 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.

I would like to remind you that 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>

Further information about the vaccine and why you should be vaccinated is available here: <http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/outbreaks/vaccine-serogroupb.html>

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 at this time. A web link to the vaccination schedule is below. All vaccinations will take place on the lower level of Peterson Center, beginning at 9am on Saturday, September 5. 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 or off-campus apartment 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/sept-5-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 5pm, 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 September 5<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.

Sincerely,

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