

From: Goodwin, Kristine C

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Dear Students:

Thank you for your incredible response to Sunday's vaccination clinic. We had 3,168 students come through and 3,061 were vaccinated. I am very proud of our Friar Family - coming together to support and protect one another.

For those students who were unable to attend Sunday's clinic, and for those who opted out but who may have changed their minds, we will be running a **second clinic TOMORROW (Wed. Feb. 11th) from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in '64 Hall**. Unlike Sunday's clinic, there are no assigned times - if you want to be vaccinated, just show up between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Please bring your PC ID to swipe in. Our Office of Enrollment Services has confirmed that virtually every student who has yet to be immunized has free time between the hours of 10 and 4 tomorrow, so no student should have to miss class to get vaccinated.

All undergraduate students and eligible graduate students should be vaccinated. (A graduate student is eligible if he/she is living or working on campus OR if they are intimately involved in a relationship with an undergraduate student OR if they are without a spleen or immunocompromised.) The vaccine is approved only for individuals who are 10 to 25 years old. There is no cost to any student who wishes to be vaccinated.

It is important that you understand that any prior vaccinations you may have had 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>. RI Department of Health Director Dr. Michael Fine has told the campus community that he very strongly recommends students be vaccinated. "It is the only responsible thing to do," he said.

Let me reiterate that this vaccination is a three-dose vaccine. The first dose is being administered this week. A second dose will be given on or about April 8th and a third dose will be given sometime in August. I will keep you informed as the details are worked out.

Some students, who received the vaccine on Sunday, have reported experiencing some of the common adverse reactions like pain at the injection site, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, nausea, and chills. While these are common, if you are concerned or if you experience more severe or unusual symptoms you can call or go to the Student Health Center. Emergencies should be reported to the Safety and Security emergency line (401-865-2222) or 911.

We've decided to keep the **Student Health Center open 24/7 through Monday, Feb. 16th at 5pm**. After that we will likely revert to normal hours (8 a.m.-5 p.m.). We will also continue to provide EMT coverage 24/7 through Monday and after hours and weekends beyond that.

**PLEASE REMEMBER:**

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.

While this is not an exhaustive list, the following precautions are recommended by the Department of Health:

- **Please 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**

Meningitis 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.

If you or a close contact become sick:

- Anyone with a high fever should seek medical attention immediately
- Students should immediately report to or call the Student Health Center (x2422) (For EMERGENCIES x2222)
- 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.
- You may become ill with meningitis even if you have not been in contact with someone who is sick

Additional information about the vaccine and meningitis in general is available on our website: <http://www.providence.edu/health-center/meningitis/Pages/default.aspx>

Thank you for your continued cooperation and vigilance.

Sincerely,

Kristine

Kristine C. Goodwin  
Vice President for Student Affairs  
Providence College  
Tel: 401.865.2144  
[Kgoodwi2@providence.edu](mailto:Kgoodwi2@providence.edu)