

**From:** Goodwin, Kristine C

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**To:** all.2015; all.2016; all.2017; all.2018; all.grad

**Subject:** MENINGITIS VACCINATION CLINIC INFORMATION - URGENT

**MENINGITIS VACCINATION CLINIC – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 2015**

Information Sessions with Dr. Michael Fine, Director of RI Health Department beginning at 3pm today (Saturday) in '64 Hall – If '64 hall fills to capacity we will offer additional sessions. There will be an additional clinic on Wednesday, February 10th for students who are away from campus or who cannot attend on Sunday.

The College has worked closely with the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to obtain a supply of Trumenba, a meningitis B vaccine made by Pfizer. This vaccine was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in October 2014. The vaccine requires three doses. We will have the first of these three doses available for administration on Sunday, February 8th. (A link to the vaccination schedule is below.)

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. (Dr. Fine will be on campus to meet with students TODAY at 3:00 p.m. in '64 Hall. Every student is invited to attend that meeting.)

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.)

Any prior vaccinations students 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>

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; however, we do request that you bring your health insurance card with you to the clinic if you can. You will not be turned away if you do not have a card.

A web link to the vaccination schedule is below. All vaccinations will take place on the lower level of Peterson Center, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 8th. Please be prompt in arriving at the Peterson Center at the appointed time. That means you need to factor in the time it is going to take you to walk from your dorm or off-campus apartment to get to the Peterson Center.

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

If, for some reason, the time slot allotted for you to be vaccinated will not work for you, then you should plan to be vaccinated on Wednesday, February 10th. Wednesday's clinic will take place from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in '64 Hall. No appointment or time slot is necessary on Wednesday. However, you MUST bring your PC student ID and your insurance information.

ALL STUDENTS MUST REPORT EITHER ON SUNDAY OR ON WEDNESDAY WHETHER YOU INTEND TO BE VACCINATED OR NOT. IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO BE VACCINATED, YOU MUST COMPLETE AN OPT-OUT FORM.

Link to vaccination schedule:

<http://www.providence.edu/health-center/meningitis/Pages/vaccinations.aspx>

Please also remember:

***The 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 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

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)
- 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

Thank you for your cooperation and vigilance.

Sincerely,

**Kristine C. Goodwin**

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