

May 4, 2016

Dear Campus Community,

This message is to provide additional information regarding the Rutgers student with meningococcal meningitis. The laboratory tests that were done indicate that *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup (type) B (MenB) caused the infection. Rutgers Student Health continues to coordinate the response for this infection with local, regional, state health officials and the CDC.

Vaccination is the best protection against meningococcal disease. However, the vaccine routinely given to protect against meningococcal disease protects against four serogroups – A, C, W, and Y. This vaccine does not provide protection against MenB disease.

There are currently 2 licensed vaccines that protect against MenB, Bexsero® and Trumenba®. These safe and effective vaccines may be given to anyone 16 – 23 years old to provide short-term protection against most strains of MenB disease; 16 – 18 years are the preferred ages for vaccination. As a precaution, you should contact your healthcare provider or Rutgers Student Health to discuss whether you may be at increased risk for MenB and your options for vaccination against MenB.

More information about serogroup B meningococcal vaccination can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/faqs-hcp-adolescent-vaccine.html#serogroup>

Members of the University community who experience symptoms or have health concerns may visit their health care provider. Students may visit Rutgers Student Health (848-932-7402) Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 10:00AM to 4:30PM, at Hurtado Health Center, Busch Livingston Health Center and Cook Douglass Health Center (<http://rhsmedical.rutgers.edu/locations/hours-of-operation/>). For medical advice when the health centers are not open, students can call the Advice Nurse Line: 1-800-890-5882. Faculty and staff at Rutgers University-New Brunswick who have additional questions or concerns can contact the Occupational Health Department at 848-932-8254. In case of an emergency, call 911. It is extremely important that anyone with symptoms of meningococcal disease (e.g., rash, headache, stiff neck, fever) get evaluated as soon as possible. While meningococcal disease is treatable with antibiotics, treatment must be started quickly.

In addition, to help prevent the spread of the disease, Rutgers Student Health is encouraging members of the University community to pay increased attention to personal hygiene practices such as good handwashing, covering coughs, and avoiding the sharing of drinks and eating utensils with others.

Rutgers University is closely monitoring the situation in conjunction with state, regional and local public health officials and will continue to provide updates as necessary.

Sincerely,

Melodee Lasky, MD
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Health & Wellness
Rutgers Student Affairs
Hurtado Health Center
11 Bishop Place
New Brunswick, NJ 08901