



Dear Students,

9/22/2023

We are writing to make you aware that there may be a probable case of mumps on campus based on an antibody test. The student went home while awaiting those test results from their PCP and has not been on campus since 09/15/2023. The student has had very limited contact with other individuals on the Lehigh campus, but we will be reaching out to those who may have been identified as having contact while on campus to make sure all proper precautions have been taken.

Mumps is a highly contagious viral infection with an incubation period between 12 – 25 days. Symptoms often start between days 16 -18. Typical prodromal symptoms of Mumps include fever, fatigue, headache, body aches and loss of appetite. Unilateral or bilateral parotid gland swelling typically occurs 2-3 days later.

Mumps can occur in fully-vaccinated persons, but the risk for infection is much higher for those who are unvaccinated. Although there is a recommendation from the CDC to offer a third MMR during a mumps outbreak, that is not being recommended at this time.

You can read about mumps in this Pennsylvania Department of Health Fact Sheet: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/Mumps.pdf>. More information about mumps can also be found on the website of the Centers for Disease Control at: <https://www.cdc.gov/mumps/index.html>.

Students who have not received their mumps (MMR) vaccines should contact the Bethlehem Health Bureau at 610-865-7083 to schedule a vaccination. Students can also contact their primary care physician's office to schedule vaccination there. In the event of an outbreak, students who are unable to provide evidence of two mumps vaccinations could be excluded from campus until 25 days after the last case of mumps.

We urge members of the campus community to practice routine precautions to help prevent the spread of illness, which include the following:

- Cover your mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, or cough into your elbow instead of your hand.
- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly throughout the day, or use alcohol-based sanitizers.
- Avoid sharing food and drinks (this includes drinking games) or participating in activities that result in saliva exchange.
- Stay home from work or class when sick to avoid spreading illness to others.

We will keep the campus community informed of any additional developments. In the meantime, we encourage anyone with questions or concerns to contact the Health & Wellness Center at 610-758-3870 or by email at inluhc@lehigh.edu.

Sincerely,
Steve Bowers
Director of the Health & Wellness Center