



EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

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Division of Student Affairs
Student Health Services

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Dear ECU Student and Parent,

As you know, our belief at Eastern Kentucky University is that “Students and Learning Come First”. At Student Health Services, we also believe that good health, both physical and mental, is essential for a successful learning experience. We are committed to health education as a means of fostering healthy lifestyles, not just for the present, but for a lifetime. To that end, and at the same time satisfying the requirements of KY HB 342 and KY HB 149, we would like to inform you about several health issues that should be given serious consideration as you begin your academic career at ECU. As is true of any institution in which large numbers of people from across the nation and around the world gather to share learning and living quarters, certain health risks are faced by our students as members of the ECU community. These must be acknowledged, and steps taken to minimize them.

The following pages describe several conditions of which you should be aware, and include steps necessary to protect yourself against them, including vaccinations and lifestyle measures. The first is **Meningococcal disease**, a bacterial infection the most commonly known form of which is **meningitis**. The next is **Hepatitis B**, a viral infection spread through contact with an infected person’s blood or other body fluids, including semen and vaginal fluids. And the third is **HIV/AIDS**, another viral infectious disease spread similarly. Please review the literature provided, and for further information, please visit the web sites listed below.

Two years ago, an outbreak of **Mumps** brought this viral infectious disease to the forefront of our attention. First appearing primarily among college age students in Iowa, it quickly spread to the neighboring states. Given the mobile nature of our population, it is easy to understand our concern over the need to protect our students, as well as our faculty and staff, from this rapidly spreading, very infectious disease. Please check with your personal health care provider to ensure that you have had at least two doses of the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine. If not, I would strongly encourage you to get the missing doses, preferably at least two weeks before arrival on campus.

Recently, the vaccine against **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)**, Gardasil, became available for vaccination of young women, offering them protection against the most common causes of genital warts and cervical cancer. Also recently, national attention has focused on the resurgence of **Whooping Cough**, or **Pertussis**, amongst adults, including those who were previously vaccinated as children. Revaccination is being recommended, especially for those going into health related careers, teaching, social services, emergency services, etc. where substantial contact with the public is very likely.

Lastly, the **flu** season will be upon us before we know it. The annual flu vaccine, administered each fall, is highly recommended. With the Novel Influenza A/H1N1 high on everyone’s radar, and fear of a potential pandemic on the minds of Health Authorities, development of a vaccine for this never before seen strain of the flu virus originating in pigs is underway. We will advise you further regarding vaccine availability and recommendations regarding vaccinations, as they become known to us.

We encourage you to discuss these topics with your trusted health care provider, and strongly recommend that students consider obtaining the vaccinations either through their health care provider or through the ECU Student Health Services.

The Student Health Services does administer vaccines against Meningococcal Meningitis, Hepatitis B, Seasonal Influenza, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Pertussis, and Gardasil, **at cost**; and any one interested in getting vaccinated through SHS is asked to complete the Vaccination Reservation / Prepayment form available through our website, and mail it in along with payment (check or money order), to Student Accounting Services, SSB CPO 60, 521 Lancaster Avenue, Richmond, KY 40475.

Please contact the Student Health Center at 859-622-1761 if you have any questions or concerns. You may also wish to access one of the following web sites: www.musa.org , www.acha.org , or www.cdc.gov , for more information.

Sincerely yours,

Pradeep Bose, M.D.
Director, Student Health Services

