

Kentucky State Law requires that EKU provide students with the following Health Information

This information, along with information on HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B, also required reading for all first time students, is available on the EKU Student Health Services website:

<http://www.healthservices.eku.edu>

MENINGITIS

Transmission:

Meningococcal Meningitis is rare. This potentially fatal bacterial disease can lead to swelling of the tissues surrounding the brain and spinal cord, and can result in severe and permanent disabilities, such as hearing loss, brain damage, seizures, limb amputation, and even death. The bacterium that causes Meningococcal meningitis is spread through the air via respiratory secretions or through close contact with an infected person. This can include coughing, sneezing, kissing, or sharing items such as eating utensils, cigarettes, and drinking glasses.

Web Site Information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo>

Symptoms:

Symptoms of meningococcal meningitis often resemble the flu, and can include high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, rash, nausea, vomiting, lethargy, and confusion.

Treatment:

Early diagnosis and prompt treatment with appropriate antibiotics is critical for optimal results. If meningitis is suspected, immediate evaluation in the Emergency Room is recommended.

Prevention:

A safe and effective vaccine is available to protect against four of the five most common strains of the meningococcus bacterium. The vaccine provides protection for approximately ten (10) years or longer. As with any vaccine, vaccination against meningococcal meningitis may not protect 100 percent of all susceptible individuals. Vaccination is strongly recommended for college students, particularly freshmen who live on campus in Residence Halls. Besides vaccination, one should avoid smoking, sharing eating utensils, drinking glasses, toothbrushes, etc.

For more information, contact EKU's Student Health Services by phone at (859) 622-1761, or via e-mail at studenthealthservice@eku.edu.