



American College Health Association

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August 1, 2013

TO: All U.S. Residential Colleges and Universities

FROM: ACHA

SUBJECT: College Students Mumps Advisory – Fall 2013

As many of you know, cases and outbreaks of mumps can occur in the college and university setting. In 2006, a large mumps outbreak affected college-age students in a number of states. Cases of mumps among college age-students continue to be reported periodically to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This includes several outbreaks of mumps cases in college and university settings reported in Spring 2013 with the largest outbreak reporting 71 cases. With the new academic year approaching, the American College Health Association (ACHA), after consultation with the CDC, calls your attention to the current recommendations for the prevention of mumps.

The most effective strategy to protect college students from mumps is to ensure that all students have received two doses of measles-mumps-rubella vaccine (MMR) or have other presumptive evidence of immunity (i.e. laboratory evidence of immunity, laboratory confirmation of disease, or birth before 1957). This statement reflects the vaccine policy recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) that was updated in 2013. The return of students to fall classes presents an important opportunity to uniformly implement this prevention strategy. The CDC and ACHA recommend that schools adhere to the following recommendations:

1. All students should have documentation that they have received two doses of MMR or other acceptable presumptive evidence of immunity to mumps. Students who have documentation of receiving one dose of MMR and one dose of measles vaccine should receive a second MMR vaccine.
2. Documentation of two MMR doses should be in the form of a vaccination record (i.e. shot card or electronic immunization record with dates of vaccination indicated therein).

Despite relatively high two-dose vaccine effectiveness (median 88%; range 65-95%), two-dose vaccine coverage might not be sufficient to prevent all mumps outbreaks. Transmission of mumps may be facilitated by social interactions and living environments that can result in close and prolonged exposure to mumps. College health providers should be vigilant for symptoms consistent with mumps including parotitis (swelling of glands on the side of the face). Suspected

cases of mumps should be reported promptly to public health officials to facilitate confirmatory testing and appropriate control response.

The CDC and ACHA realize that these measures will have resource implications for colleges and universities; however, we believe these measures are necessary to provide the best protection for college students against mumps and avoid the inevitable disruption of the college experience caused by illness and isolation procedures. MMR is a very safe vaccine, even if the person has already had two doses of MMR or has had the disease. No evidence indicates that administration of MMR vaccine increases the risk for adverse reaction among persons who are already immune to these diseases through previous vaccination or disease. If you have any questions or need additional information, please visit the CDC website (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mumps/default.htm>) or contact your state or local health department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia L. Ketcham". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Patricia L. Ketcham, PhD, CHES, FACHA
President