

ASU Student with Meningitis Causes Local Action

Written by Steve Frank

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The Appalachian District Health Department and Appalachian State University Student Health Service, working with local healthcare providers, report that they have been working together to address one case of bacterial meningitis. An ASU student reportedly became ill while away from campus on November 25th, raising local concerns. The release from the Health Department says, "All people that are believed to be at-risk because of close contact with the ill person have been identified. Though these people are not sick, they have contacted and have been provided preventive medication." The release went on to say that ASU Student Health Service is working closely with public health officials to coordinate response efforts, but they assessed that there is "a very low risk" that meningitis would be spread to others in the local area given the specific details in this situation. Those in close contact have been given preventive medication as a precautionary measure is effective in preventing meningitis disease. But with the flu making an appearance in the area, health officials wanted to point out some differences in symptoms, including:

- Sudden onset of fever
- Intense headache
- Nausea and frequent vomiting
- Stiff neck
- Sensitivity to light

They say that if you have any of these symptoms to contact your healthcare provider.