MENINGITIS AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURE

INTRODUCTION
From time to time, members of the University community may suffer from communicable diseases (i.e., illnesses that are contagious/can be spread). Given the close proximity that people will often live, work or study in, this can make it more likely for illnesses to spread from person to person in a university setting. This can often be in a number of ways depending on the particular illness but may include: contact with blood or bodily fluids; breathing in an airborne virus; physical contact with the person or sharing cups, cutlery etc. When there is an outbreak of certain diseases, the University may work closely with the NHS Public Protection Unit in order to attempt to reduce the spread of the illness.

This procedure applies to all communicable diseases, some examples of which include Meningitis, Hepatitis A, B & C, influenza, measles, and salmonella.

PROCEDURE

The way in which UWS will respond to a communicable disease is outlined in the flowchart in Appendix 1. This procedure falls within the scope of the University Major Incident Plan (MIP), which will be used to shape the response to any communicable disease incident affecting the University. This does not remove the need for School & Department local arrangements to be implemented as necessary. For further information please contact ResilienceandSafety@uws.ac.uk.

Meningitis

Meningitis and meningitis septicemia (blood poisoning), can be very dangerous, and in some cases fatal. The risks of catching it are small, but if you are 24yrs of age or under and haven’t already had the vaccination, we strongly recommend that you receive it from your doctor before or as soon as you start university.

The vaccination is usually free from your local doctor. Even if you have the vaccination, not all forms of meningitis and meningitis septicemia are vaccine preventable. It is vital to be aware of the signs and symptoms of meningitis and meningitis septicemia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptoms of meningitis:</th>
<th>Symptoms of meningitis septicemia:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Fever/Vomiting</td>
<td>• Fever/vomiting</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Drowsiness/Confusion</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Violent or severe headache</td>
<td>• Cold hands/feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Neck Stiffness</td>
<td>• Stomach/ joint/muscle pain</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Dislike of bright lights.</td>
<td>• Rapid Breathing</td>
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Symptoms can appear in any order and not everyone suffers from all symptoms. Early symptoms could be mistaken as flu or a bad hangover, so if you are concerned about yourself or one of your friends, contact your doctor immediately.
Appendix 1

Procedure for Dealing with Notification that a Student has been diagnosed with Meningococcal Meningitis or Other Communicable Disease

Patient confidentiality must be preserved at all times. Identifiable information will be shared only where necessary, and in line with GDPR 2018.

- If School or Department is notified by Student’s family or friends:
  - Immediately inform Head of Resilience & Safety. Who may invoke the University Major Incident Plan (MIP).

- If R&S notified by Public Health Protection Unit (PHPU) 0141 201 4917 option 3 to confirm if information is correct and, if so, establish which NHS Board PHPU will lead on actions.

- R&S will liaise with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Public Health Protection Unit (PHPU) 0141 201 4917 option 3 to confirm if information is correct and, if so, establish which NHS Board PHPU will lead on actions.

- PHPU will assist with Media Handling.

- If R&S notified by Public Health Protection Unit in Health Board in which Campus is located.
  - Resilience and Safety will take the lead and manage on behalf of UWS.

- Information must be agreed with PHPU before distribution.
  - Information distributed by Registry to relevant students via their e-mail accounts, with posted letter to follow.

- Registry can also send brief text messages with essential information (e.g., “read your UWS emails”) to student groups, if necessary.

- R&S will:
  - Obtain details of students sharing residential accommodation to allow PHPU to contact them (if relevant)
  - Contact Registry with the names of the student groups that may need to be informed to allow them to formulate a mailing list
  - Liaise with PHPU over the wording of any letter from PHPU to students and staff
  - Pass finalised letter from PHPU, and other relevant information, to Registry for distribution to relevant students

- Copy finalised letter from PHPU and other relevant information to:
  - Dean(s) of School(s) involved for distribution to relevant staff
  - University Secretary, Director of Student Life, Executive Director of HR, Residential Operations Manager and SAUWS
  - Head of Marketing & Communications
  - Keep all parties informed of any changes or actions as they arise
  - Provide support to staff and students as required.

Information to Ensure Preparedness. R&S will inform the following that there is a confirmed case(s) of Meningococcal Meningitis:
- Relevant Dean(s) of School(s)
- Director of Student Life
- Head of Student Support
- Head of Marketing and Communications & Staff

Where relevant:
- President, Deputy President (Welfare and General Manager at SAUWS)
- Executive Director of HR
- Occupational Health Manager

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