

## **MENINGITIS AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

From time to time, members of the University community may suffer from communicable diseases (ie 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](mailto: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.

<i>Symptoms of meningitis:</i>	<i>Symptoms of meningitis septicemia:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever/Vomiting</li> <li>• Drowsiness/Confusion</li> <li>• Violent or severe headache</li> <li>• Neck Stiffness</li> <li>• Dislike of bright lights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever/vomiting</li> <li>• Drowsiness/Confusion</li> <li>• Cold hands/feet</li> <li>• Stomach/ joint/muscle pain</li> <li>• Rapid Breathing</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rash that doesn't disappear with pressure.</li> </ul>
<p>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.</p>	

Procedure Author – Head of Resilience and Safety	Procedure Owner – University Secretary
Parent Policy Statement - Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy	Public Access or Staff Only Access – Public
Version 2 – April 2019	Changes and Reason for Changes – Procedure Review

**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.

