



February 10, 2020

Dear Faculty, Students, and Staff:

A confirmed case of mumps has been identified with connection to Winthrop University. Anyone who resided in or visited the Winthrop University, from February 2, 2020 through February 6, 2020 may have been exposed to mumps.

Mumps is a contagious viral infection that may result in parotitis, or swelling in one or both parotid salivary glands in the cheek and jaw area below the ear. Other common symptoms include fever, headache, muscle aches, tiredness and loss of appetite. Symptoms usually appear about 16-18 days after infection, but can range from 12-25 days after infection. Some people who get mumps have very mild or no symptoms and often do not know they have the disease. Most people with mumps recover completely in a few weeks. Mumps can occasionally cause complications, especially in adults. Complications include deafness and inflammation of the testicles, brain, tissue covering the brain, ovaries, and breasts.

Mumps is spread through saliva or mucus from the mouth nose or throat. An infected person can spread the virus by: coughing; sneezing; talking or kissing; sharing items such as drinks, cigarettes or eating utensils; and touching objects or surfaces with unwashed hands that are then touched by others. People with mumps can spread it for two to three days before the salivary glands begin to swell and five days after the swelling begins.

To prevent the spread of the mumps virus: wash your hands frequently; don't share food, beverages, eating utensils or cigarettes; cover your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze; and avoid close contact with ill individuals. Mumps can be prevented with MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccine. A single dose of mumps vaccine is estimated to be 78% effective, while two doses are about 88% effective at preventing mumps.

Students at Winthrop University born in 1957 or after are required to have written documentation of 2 doses of MMR vaccine. All adults born during or after 1957 who do not have evidence of immunity against mumps are recommended to have at least one dose of MMR vaccine. For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/mumps/vaccination.html>.

If you are vaccinated with MMR vaccine, your risk of mumps infection is lower; however, it is important to be aware of the signs and symptoms because even fully vaccinated individuals can contract the disease.

Persons with parotid swelling should avoid close contact with others, call ahead to their medical provider and wear a mask while in the waiting room. Any individual who develops parotid swelling should notify his or her health care provider or the student health center at (803) 323-2206.

For any questions, contact the student health center at (803) 323-2206 or Veleta Rudnick with DHEC's Midlands Region Health Epidemiology Office at (803) 642-1618.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry G. Potter", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Henry G "Gill" Potter, MD, MPH
Midlands Region Medical Director