A student who attends the University of California, Davis, was recently diagnosed with meningococcal disease, a bacterial infection that can cause bloodstream infections and meningitis. The student is receiving medical care and is recovering.

While meningococcal disease is a serious illness, only those in very close contact are considered to be at increased risk. Close contact includes household members, roommates, boyfriend/girlfriends, and activities such as kissing, sharing utensils, water bottles or smoking devices. UC Davis Student Health and Yolo County Public Health have contacted individuals in close contact with the ill student to arrange for preventative medication.

Casual contacts and the general community do not need preventative medication and Public Health does not advise general campus immunization at this time.

As standard protocol, the meningococcal bacterial strain was tested and has been confirmed as serogroup B. Routine meningococcal vaccine does not cover this strain of the bacteria, but there is a newly licensed vaccine that covers serogroup B. Although not widely available, UC Davis Student Health is obtaining doses of the newly licensed serotype B vaccine and it will be available to interested students, though Public Health does not recommend general campus immunization at this time.

Public Health continues to advise routine vaccination for all young adults if they have never received the meningococcal vaccine or completed the vaccination series. UC Davis Student Health regularly provides the routine meningococcal vaccine and it remains available to students seeking to update their vaccinations.

Please wash your hands frequently and do not share water bottles or other utensils. Anyone with the following signs of illness should always seek prompt medical care: high fever, severe headache, confusion, or a blotchy purple rash. These can be signs of meningitis.

If you are a UC Davis student and need more information about meningococcal disease, or meningococcal vaccination, please call UC Davis Student Health at 530-752-2349. Other community members with questions can call Yolo County Public Health during business hours at 530-666-8645. If you have a medical emergency, please call 911.