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Take one: March 1985

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MEDICAL CENTER PERSONNEL URGED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO PROTECT AGAINST MEASLES

Although the Boston University Medical Center campus so far remains untouched by the outbreak of measles that has struck Boston University students at the Charles River campus over the last few weeks, there is concern that the disease may be spreading to other institutions in the area.

The strain of measles in question is known as rubeola, and is characterized by a rash, high fever, cough, runny nose and conjunctivitis, which last for a one-to-two-week period. Rubeola is highly contagious, and is spread through the air.

According to Constance C. Cornog, M.D., director of BUMC Employee Health Services, the epidemic has spread to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is likely to show up at other college campuses in the area, and eventually in the general community.

As a precautionary measure, all employees, staff and regular BUSM and GSGD students at the Medical Center who are not already protected against the disease are encouraged to receive a rubella measles vaccination from Employee Health Services. Women who are pregnant should not be inoculated, according to Cornog.

Employees who have received the required rubella, or German measles, vaccine during their preliminary physical need not take any action at this time because the rubella vaccine given by Employee Health Services also contains immunization against rubeola, says Cornog.

Medical Center personnel who have not been vaccinated or who received rubeola vaccines before 1966, when the vaccine was ineffective, may want to take advantage of the immunization being offered by Employee Health Services.

For more information, contact Dr. Cornog at x5705.