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BUSM News and Notes

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1985-03-06

# BUSM news & notes: March 6, 1985

## Special Issue

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# News & Notes

Boston University School of Medicine



Special Issue: March 6, 1985

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE STUDENTS AND 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, BUSM students, faculty and staff who are not already protected against the disease are encouraged to receive a measles vaccination from Employee Health Services. Women who are pregnant should not be inoculated, according to Cornog.

Unlike the students at the University's Charles River campus, students at the Medical Center campus presently do not need to show proof of immunization before attending classes; this, however, may change should an outbreak of measles occur at the Medical Center, Cornog says. However, anyone who has not been vaccinated or who received the rubeola vaccine before 1966, when the vaccine was ineffective, may want to take advantage of the immunization being offered by Employee Health Services.

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.

For more information, contact Cornog at x5705.