Information from the University at Buffalo Regarding the Mumps Virus

Mumps is a viral disease transmitted by direct contact with saliva produced in the mouth and discharge from the nose and throat of infected individual. An infected person can spread the virus by:
- Coughing, sneezing or talking
- Sharing items such as cups or eating utensils with others
- Touching objects or surfaces with unwashed hands that are then touched by others

FAQ

What are the symptoms of mumps?
Symptoms of mumps include:
- low-grade fever
- headache
- muscle aches
- stiff neck
- tiredness
- loss of appetite
- swelling and tenderness of one or more of the salivary glands

Approximately one-third of infected people do not have noticeable symptoms. For more information go to www.CDC.gov/mumps

What can be done to prevent the spread of mumps?
- Cover your cough with your elbow and cough into your sleeve instead of your hands
- Wash your hands frequently
- Properly dispose of used tissues
- Don’t share cups or eating utensils
- Avoid individuals who appear to be sick

Does UB have a vaccination requirement for students?
Per NYS Law, UB requires all students be vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella prior to their initial enrollment. For mumps specifically, NYS Law requires each student to demonstrate proof of immunity against mumps in the form of one dose of mumps vaccine (typically in the form of a combined MMR vaccination) or serology results showing immunity. Additional information regarding the requirements can be found at http://www.student-affairs.buffalo.edu/shs/student-health/immunization.php

Are there mumps cases on campus?
UB has confirmed cases of mumps among a small student population living off campus. The diagnosed students have been contacted and are being given the appropriate level of treatment. UB and the Erie County Health Department are working together to identify and subsequently interview all individuals who were in close, personal contact with probable and suspected cases and will continue to reach out to those individuals who have been directly exposed to the virus.
I am a student/employee/visitor at UB and was born before 1957. Am I at risk for contracting the mumps virus?
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), individuals born before 1957 have presumptive immunity to the mumps virus.

What has been UB’s response?
Given the close-knit nature of UB’s campus community, Erie County Health Department is working in partnership with UB to identify and subsequently interview all close personal contacts and will continue to reach out to those individuals who have been directly exposed to the virus. UB and the local health department will not be releasing the names or identifying details of the students and non-students identified. UB continues to encourage students, employees and visitors to wash their hands regularly, avoid contact with individuals who appear to be sick and visit their physician or Student Health Services if they’re showing signs of illness.

How do I know if I was exposed to the mumps virus?
If you think you have been exposed to the mumps virus and you have been vaccinated, you are less likely to develop the virus. The local health department is identifying and subsequently interviewing all individuals who were in close, personal contact with probable and suspected cases and will continue to reach out to those individuals who have been directly exposed to the virus. The surveillance system being used by the local health department has been utilized for disease control for many years and has a proven record of success. If you believe you have the mumps or have been directly exposed, please cooperate with the local health department during this on-going investigation.

What if I have a question about who the diagnosed individuals are?
UB and the local health department will not be releasing the names or identifying details of the students and non-students in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Can visitors come to UB’s campuses during this time?
All UB campuses, academic, arts, athletic and recreation facilities remain open.

Is there a cure for mumps?
There is currently no medical treatment for the mumps virus. The Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine has been proven to be 88% effective against mumps; therefore, it does prevent most cases. Treatment for mumps is focused on relieving symptoms until the body’s immune system fights off the infection.

Additional information can be found at [http://www.cdc.gov/mumps/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mumps/index.html)