

Measles case reported, free vaccines available

By Maxine Kubicek

The state health dept. is asking the University Health Center (UHC) to watch out for more cases of the seven-day measles after a case was reported at UNL last week, according to a UHC official.

Dr. Kenneth Hubble, UHC director, said the state agency notified him that a 20-year old female student had the measles. She had been examined by a private physician.

A measles immunization is required prior to attending most urban schools, Hubble said, but that "it should be interesting to see what will happen in the next 10 days. The student must have had contact with other people."

Dr. E. D. Lyman, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department director, said the last known incident of seven-day measles in Nebraska was in 1975, when 30 to 40 cases were reported to the county health dept. However, "there is always a cause for concern with any disease that can be as easily prevented as measles."

Complications that may result from a bout with the measles are more dangerous than the disease itself, Lyman said. Complications include possible hearing loss, visual problems and encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain, he said.

People should be encouraged to receive the measles vaccine, which has been in use since 1963, Lyman said. The vaccine is more important to protect against complications than against measles.

"Any strong believer in mental health, any opponent of mental retardation, should get the vaccine," he said. "I don't see how a person could live down not receiving the vaccine if they happened to produce a retarded child because of exposure to the measles."

The three-day and the seven-day measles can do much the same kind of damage, Lyman said.

Dr. Hubble said he also was concerned about the three-day measles, particularly their occurrence in women. Exposure to the three-day measles during the first three months of pregnancy results in a 25 per cent chance of producing an abnormal baby, he said.

A person can contract the three-day measles two or three times and still not have enough natural immunity to prevent reinfection, he said.

"The health center ran advertisements in the Daily Nebraskan last semester encouraging people to be tested for adequate immunity to the three-day measles, but there were only nine responses," he said.

Faculty

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"Professors shouldn't have to go out into picket lines," he said.

The fact that teachers have joined unions in some parts of the country shows a step backward for those associated with institutions, he said.

"It shows a lack of support that should be there," he said.

Faculty willing to bargain.

Norma Sue Griffin, associate professor and vice chairman for academic affairs in the physical education and recreation dept. said she is uncomfortable with the term militancy.

"I feel professors are open and questioning rights as professors and working conditions," Griffin said.

"Very few professors are involved in or planning to be involved in strikes. Faculty members are more willing to participate and more involved in governing processes," she said.

According to Griffin, salaries, especially when money is scarce, are always a concern to faculty members.

"Rational people should be able to sit down and talk things over," she said. Faculty members want to take an active role in establishing the mission of the university, she added.

Griffin said she thinks a pattern has emerged from last year's UNL's faculty decision not to unionize. Since the vote was close she said it showed there is time to work out differences.

However, "next time the vote may be for collective bargaining," she said.

"The faculty doesn't have impact or voice that they would like to have in some respects," she said.

"If in view of the faculty, the positions of the faculty are being ignored, they may vote for collective bargaining."

The faculty, according to Griffin, wants to present its views in an open way, but they also want listeners.

No militancy increase

Dale Hayes, professor of education administration, said he doubts faculty members will be more militant in the future than in the past.

Salaries may not be the issue, but academic freedom will be, he said.

"Faculty members are more realistic about economical matters and tend to avoid exorbitant demands," he said.

Ritchie said he believes students today don't have a unifying force in comparison to students of the 1960s.

Students now are more job conscious, he said.

Griffin said she believes students are more willing to speak out but unwilling to take as many chances on what will be available in the way of jobs.

"Students are more conservative in terms of their demands and their expectations as to their role in the university," Hayes said.

However, he said, he believes students today are not more conservative than they were in the past.

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