

Daily Nebraskan

Monday

WEATHER:

Monday, mostly sunny and warm, high in the mid to upper 80s with SE winds 10-20 mph. Monday night, partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, low in the high 60s. Tuesday, sunny with a high near 80.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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UNL to give out mass measles immunizations

By Larry Peirce
 Senior Reporter

University, county and state health officials are moving to prevent a major outbreak of rubeola measles after officials found one case of the disease last week at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

University Health Center officials diagnosed the victim, a male undergraduate, with rubeola Thursday, said Dr. Gerald Fleischli, medical director of the health center.

Abel Hall, Fleischli said. According to Christine Newlon, director of disease control at the state health department, the victim was around other individuals when he was infectious.

Fleischli said the student visited Florida during spring break and may have picked up the virus there. Other people who were in contact with the student or the virus in Florida would now have the measles if they were going to contract the disease, Fleischli said.

Grey Borden, state immunization program coordinator for the State

Students whose names are on the list, but have been immunized, can bring proof of their immunization to the health center, he said.

Mass immunizations will be conducted Wednesday and Thursday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Centennial Ballroom in the Nebraska Union and Cook Pavilion.

To reduce the strain on people helping with the immunization sessions, he said, students whose last names begin with the letters A through M are asked to come Wednesday, and those with names starting with N through Z should come on Thursday. UNL employees who want to be immunized also can come to the mass immunizations anytime.

Health officials recommend that students who have never been immunized do so this week. Also, those who were immunized before they were 15 months of age or before 1969 should get re-immunized.

Officials say people born before 1957 probably have acquired natural immunity because measles epidemics were common then.

Fleischli said health officials don't consider previous cases of measles as proof of immunity. Borden said some people may think they have had the measles but actually had another rash that was misdiagnosed

Department of Health, said health officials formed much of their "attack plan" Friday to prevent a larger outbreak of measles.

The health center did a computer search to find the names of students "not known to be adequately immunized," Fleischli said. Barring computer problems, he said, lists of the names will be posted today in the Nebraska unions, Love Library, the health center, the Reunion and in residence hall cafeterias.

'This kind of thing is a medical director's nightmare.'

—Fleischli

Fleischli said one case of measles constitutes an epidemic, according to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

To prevent a large outbreak, as many as 15,000 UNL students could be lining up for measles immunization shots Wednesday and Thursday, Fleischli said.

"This kind of thing is a medical director's nightmare," he said.

The student diagnosed with rubeola lives on the ninth floor of

Class schedule for the student who has been diagnosed as having measles

English 150	Composition	sec. 041
	11:30-12:20 MWF	AND 30
Math 208	Analytic Geometry	sec. 001
	8:30-9:20 MTWF	M&N 206
Physics 212	General Physics	sec. 250
	11:00-12:15 TR	BL 211
Political Science 160	International Relations	sec. 002
	9:30-10:45 TR	HAA 104

These classes will be contacted by UHC.

Source: University Health Center.

John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

as measles.

Many seniors, transfer students and graduate students will be on the list because they weren't required to turn in immunization information when they enrolled at UNL. Some students in that group probably will be immune and will need to come to the health center to verify their immunity, he said.

An information and immunization request form will be inserted in the Daily Nebraskan Tuesday and Wednesday. Students who need shots must complete the form and bring it to the immunizations. By filling this out beforehand, Fleischli said, students can shorten the time it takes to be immunized.

Those who receive immunization

shots and those who can prove their immunity to rubeola measles will be given a stamped yellow card to prove they are not at risk.

The cards may be needed later if UNL officials are forced to use more drastic measures to stop the epidemic by excluding non-immune students from classes. If it comes to that, Fleischli said, professors will be given lists of people who need to be immunized before they can come to class.

"That (exclusion from class) is a possibility down the line, depending on how well the students go along with the immunization and how the epidemic progresses," Fleischli said.

UNL students who are under 19

See MEASLES on 3

Report of measles at UNL brings warning from official

By Lisa Twiestmeyer
 Staff Reporter

Measles is a highly contagious disease, and anyone who begins to feel sick during a measles outbreak should "stay home and give everyone else a break," said an official from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

George Seastrom, of the center's immunization division, said there are two types of measles: rubeola, or red measles, and rubella, or German measles. The type diagnosed at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is rubeola, which Seastrom said is the more serious form.

The disease is spread mainly through droplets from the sneezing or coughing of an infected person, Seastrom said.

The disease is most easily contracted in physicians' offices and poorly ventilated areas like classrooms and dormitories, he said. An infected person could enter a doctor's office and cough, he said, and three hours later others could still catch the disease from droplets in the air.

The incubation period for measles is 10 to 14 days, Seastrom said. During the incubation period, there is no sign of the disease.

A person who has contracted measles first will experience a "prodrome period," Seastrom said, when the person will feel generally sick, and possibly start a temperature or cough. The prodrome period lasts one to three days.

After this, the person will contract a rash and cough, he said, and one or all three of the following: conjunctivitis, or watery eyes and sensitivity to light, a runny nose and a temperature of 101 F or higher. The rash commonly lasts three to four days, he said.

A person is infectious from two days before the prodrome period begins to three days after the onset of the rash, Seastrom said.

Rubeola is more serious because death can result from complications caused by pneumonia and encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain, he said. Encephalitis occurs when the measles virus itself attacks the brain and causes it to swell.

Pneumonia is caused when the measles virus weakens the lungs so they are more susceptible to other germs. Some people with the disease may need to be hospitalized to prevent severe pneumonia from setting

See SYMPTOMS on 5



Allen Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Rosemary Thorpe, UNL Health Clinic supervisor, gives senior biology major Brian Furgason an immunization shot for rubeola measles.

Officials defend university's decision on condom machines

By Brandon Loomis
 Senior Reporter

A casual question and answer session Sunday night quickly turned into a discussion of how and where the University of Nebraska-Lincoln should distribute condoms and sex education literature.

NU Regent Don Blank of McCook and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen defended the university's position to refrain from putting condom machines in residence halls -- at least for now -- against the questions and comments of students living in the halls.

"Our main point is that as a university, we have to be careful . . ." Griesen said. "We can't be seen by the people at large as promoting sex on campus."

Fifteen students showed up in the lounge of Andoz Hall for the discussion. Blank's son

Steve, a student assistant from Abel Hall, said he coordinated the discussion to increase communication between students, regents and the administration.

Griesen said the university is looking at ways to make it easier for students to buy condoms, such as placing machines in the health center so students won't have to buy them over the counter.

Availability of condoms on and around campus is not a problem, however, Griesen said.

He said places like Peru State College, which has installed machines in recent years, have availability problems because there are few stores nearby.

"It's not like we're Peru College," Griesen said. "They're so isolated there's nowhere to buy condoms. It's not like we're out in the woods somewhere."

Blank said that although the majority of

students voting in ASUN elections supported the installation of condom machines, many students are adamantly opposed.

Blank said those people are narrow-minded, but they do exist.

"For every two that want it, there's one that doesn't," he said.

Blank said economics also plays a factor in the decision not to install machines in the halls.

He said some parents might not want to send their children to UNL because the university has made condoms so available.

People also might decide that they don't want to leave endowments to the university if condoms are "blatantly available," Blank said.

Griesen did not rule out the possibility that the university could make condoms more available in the future. He said an option would be giving them to health aides on each residence hall floor, but said he is cautious about acting without looking into it further.