

NEWS

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NEWS IN BRIEF

STEM Education

Guilford wins STEM award

Associate Professor of Biology and Director of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors Melanie Lee-Brown and Chair and Associate Professor of Biology Michele Malotky are recipients of a SENCER-National Science Foundation Post-Institute Implementation Award. The award is for a project called Allies in Community Outreach, Research and Education (ACORE), which includes faculty and students from the Bonner program, the biology department and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Their main goal is to use science outside the classroom and undertake civic engagement and peer mentoring through community-based research projects.

Event Cancelled

Recyclemania "Hazmat" Event Cancelled

Due to the recent ice and snow, the outdoor "Hazmat" event will not take place this week. The "Hazmat" event is an annual occurrence hosted by the Sustainability Department. It entails collecting all recyclable and landfill waste from outdoor containers. They are then weighed and sorting out separately, all with the goal of finding out truly how effective recycling is at Guilford. Previously, "Hazmat"-goers have found that Guilford has an issue with sullied recyclables, recyclable containers that were not completely emptied yet thrown into recycling bins.

Bryan Series

Robert Reich presentation postponed

The Bryan Series Robert Reich presentation has been postponed due to inclement weather. The event has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 7, at the Greensboro Coliseum. Tickets from the Feb. 17 date may be used on April 7. However, if you are unable to attend the event on that date, you can return them to the Office of Communications and Marketing. If you registered for the event and are interested in attending the event, but did not pick up your tickets, contact Suzanne Ingram at ssullivan@guilford.edu.

Award for Excellence

Board of Visitors Award for Excellence in Academic Advising

Nominations for the fourth annual Board of Visitors Award for Excellence in Academic Advising are currently being accepted. This award recognizes excellence and commitment to student support and guidance by advisors. All full-time faculty members are eligible for the award, and nominations can be made from anyone in the Guilford community, including students, alumni and parents. Nominations may be submitted to the Dean's Office, King 101, or by email to Steve Shapiro by March 13, at 5 p.m. On April 10, the award will be presented at the Spring Awards Ceremony.

BY VALERIA SOSA
NEWS EDITOR

Case of meningitis on campus creates concern among students

BY AIPERI IUSUPOVA
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 7, Ty Buckner, associate vice president of communications and marketing, emailed an urgent health alert that a Guilford student had tested positive for viral meningitis.

"Doctors confirmed Saturday that the Guilford student with meningitis has the viral type," said Buckner in the email. "The student remains under medical care, and we are in contact with the student's family to offer our support. At this time, we have no other confirmed cases of meningitis on our campus."

Rumors about meningitis spread contagiously. The residents in Bryan Hall, where the first case of meningitis was found, became concerned about their own health.

"I did not know what meningitis was," said senior Josh Williams, a resident of Bryan Hall.

"I found out exactly who (the victim) was," he added, "and they live within close proximity to me. It was kind of shocking. I felt like something serious was happening, and I started to question my own health."

All students and administrators of the Guilford community were involved in the meningitis watch, but only a few of them knew much about the prevention and management of the central nervous system infection.

"Meningitis is the inflammation of the tissue that covers the brain and spinal cord," said junior Nick Caputo, biology and health sciences major. "If not treated, it could cause degradation to the brain. Anti-viral medication is usually used to help with the disease since meningitis can be a byproduct of other diseases like flu or herpes."

Another student suggested tips to help prevent meningitis. "Maintain personal hygiene and an awareness of others who may have the infection," said senior Delaney Williams, a biology

major. "I would make sure I had the vaccine since the treatment depends on the type of infection."

According to Guilford's health advisory, it is recommended that students get a checkup at Eagle Physicians, where doctors can determine whether symptoms indicate meningitis. Students are also advised to get a meningococcal vaccine before moving into residence halls to prevent serious health complications.

"Anyone having symptoms should seek medical attention," said Susan Smith, administrative assistant at Milner Student Health and Counseling Center. "Symptoms of meningitis include fever, severe unrelenting headache, confusion, vomiting (and) stiff neck, especially when you try to touch your chin to your chest."

Meningitis, known as meningococcal disease, can be viral, fungal or bacterial. It is usually spread in saliva, stool and other fluid secretions. Most cases of meningitis in the U.S. are caused by a viral infection, which is the easiest to cure.

According to the nonprofit medical research group Mayo Clinic, college students aged 16 to 25 are most at risk for meningitis because it usually occurs in places where people live in close quarters.

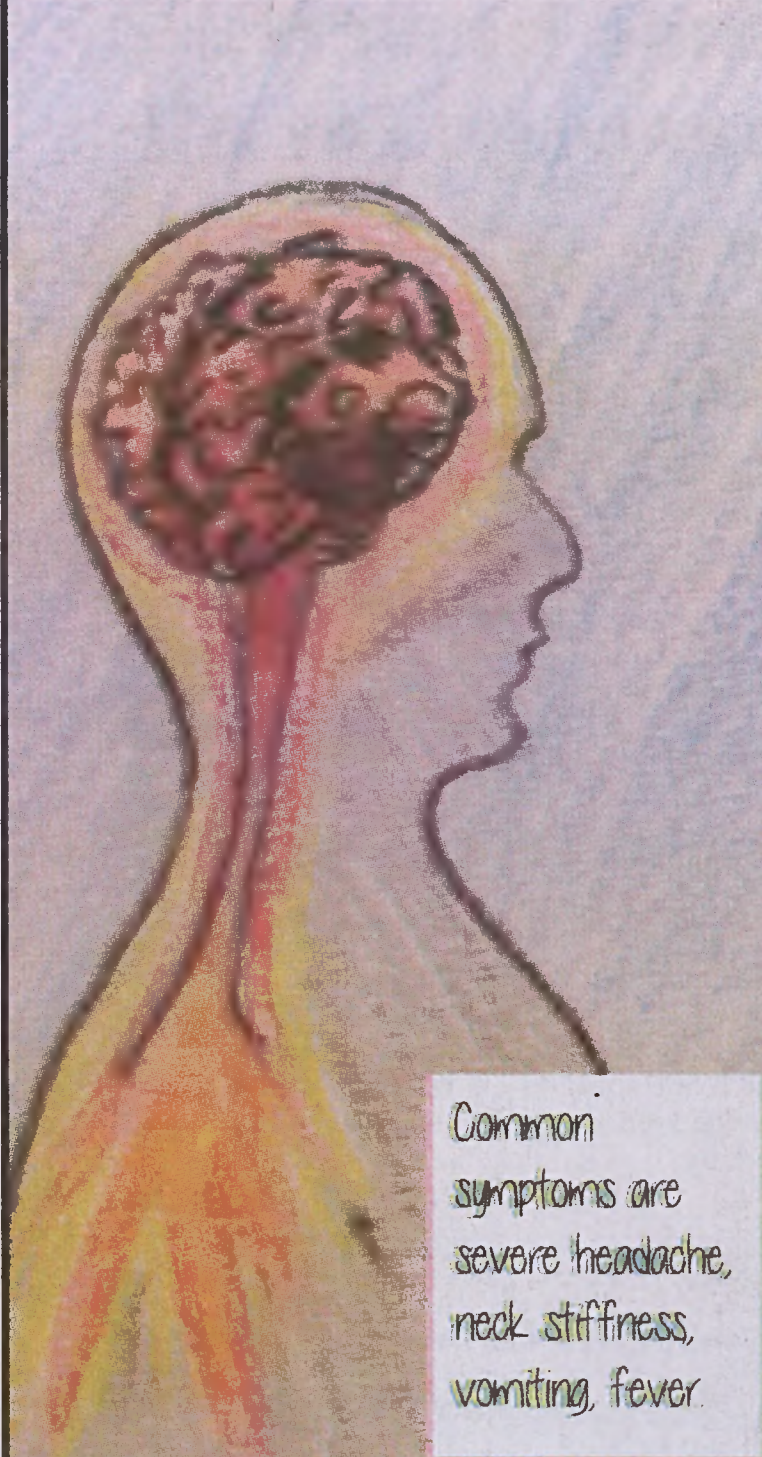
In this community of strong service and care for students, the odds of getting meningitis are lower than average. It is a rare disease that can be minimized further by taking preventive measures.

"The Student Affairs Division, under Todd Clark's leadership, and the Office of Communications and Marketing strive to be timely and accurate in informing faculty, staff and students about these types of medical concerns," said Buckner. "The first commitment is to the student who is ill. In the case of the meningitis diagnosis, Student Affairs is in close contact with the family of the student to offer support and care."

"The next commitment is to the campus community. Student Affairs, through Communications and Marketing, provides as much information as possible to keep the community informed and safe."

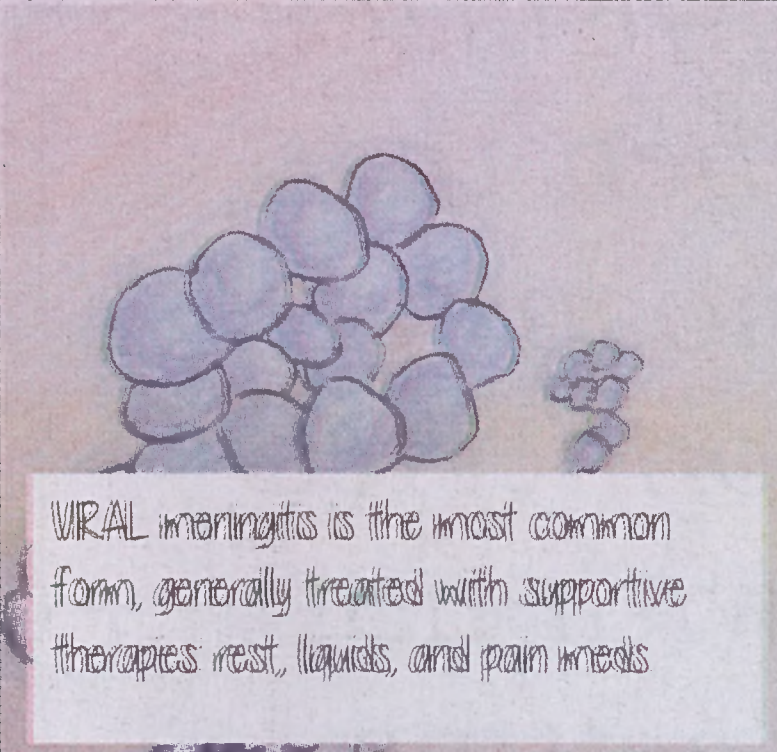
What is meningitis, and how contagious is it?

Meningitis is an inflammation of the meninges, the soft tissues that protect the brain and spinal cord

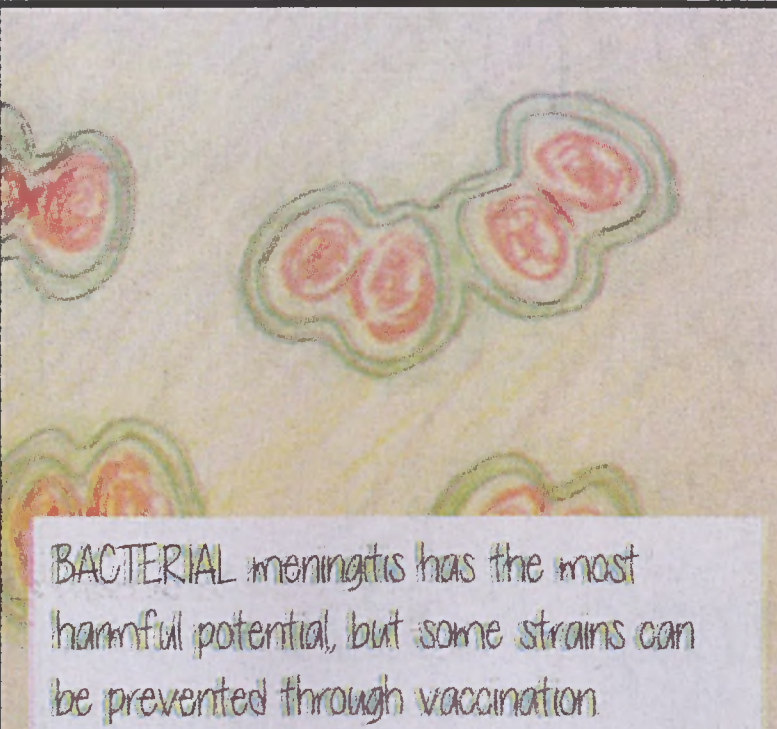


Common symptoms are severe headache, neck stiffness, vomiting, fever.

2 types of meningitis are contagious



VIRAL meningitis is the most common form, generally treated with supportive therapies: rest, liquids, and pain meds



BACTERIAL meningitis has the most harmful potential, but some strains can be prevented through vaccination

Brain Smith/Guilfordian

These forms of meningitis are transferred through contact with infected solids, liquids or aerosols (such as sneezes), and are not free-floating airborne pathogens