Possible mumps case on Calvin College campus

May 13, 2016 update
We learned this afternoon after being contacted by the Kent County Health Department that we have a confirmed positive case of mumps on campus. This means that students who have not been vaccinated are being offered a choice between being vaccinated or being isolated according to the recommendations of the Kent County Health Department. The Health Services staff has reached out to all unvaccinated students to go over their options.

For those students who have chosen to receive a vaccination, Health Services has made them available on campus Friday afternoon.

For those students who have chosen not to be vaccinated, our Housing staff is working on an accommodation plan for them. Students are also receiving contact information for Academic Services, so that plans can be developed for course and exam completion.

Health Services at Calvin continues to work closely with the Kent County Health Department, whose expertise and protocols have been helpful. We will notify the Kent County Health Department about the updated status of all unvaccinated students, so that the department can follow their additional protocols for notifying others who may be impacted by the situation.

Students, parents, staff and faculty are encouraged to contact Health Services with specific questions or concerns. They may be reached via telephone at 616-526-6187 or via email at health@calvin.edu.

We will continue to monitor For more information about mumps, you are also welcome to visit hRp://www.immunize.org/catg.d/ p4211.pdf.

May 10, 2016 update
We learned this afternoon that the second round of testing by the Bureau of Laboratories has returned inconclusive. Given that the Health Department cannot confirm a positive case of mumps on campus, they will not be restricting any unvaccinated students from campus at this time. The Bureau of Laboratories plans to send the specimens to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), but we anticipate that those results will not be final for a couple weeks. The Kent
County Health Department has asked Calvin College to continue to remain vigilant in monitoring students who may present with symptoms similar to those of mumps patients.

Because of the long incubation period and the fact that infected individuals are most contagious three days before the onset of symptoms, students should seek medical attention if they begin having symptoms of mumps even after the conclusion of the academic year.

Students, parents, staff and faculty are encouraged to contact Health Services with specific questions or concerns. They may be reached via telephone at 616-526-6187 or via email at health@calvin.edu.

May 9, 2016 update
The Bureau of Laboratories at the state level was unable to complete the next round of testing on Monday, as we had hoped. This means that those students who are unvaccinated will be allowed to continue in their classes until the case is confirmed. We expect to hear results by the end of the day Tuesday, May 10, and we will provide an update on the Health Services website at that time. In the event that the case of mumps is confirmed, the Kent County Health Department (KDHC) will return to campus to offer free vaccines for any unvaccinated students who desire it.

The Kent County Health Department has also offered more specific information about restrictions for those still unvaccinated. If the mumps case is confirmed, those students who choose not to be vaccinated will be required to leave campus. However, there may be a limited number of options for students who do not have local off-site accommodations and are unable to immediately leave. At the time of a positive test result, we will ask ALL unvaccinated students, both on-campus residents and commuters, to report their plans to the Calvin Housing Office staff. The contact number is 616-526-6120. Students will also receive contact information for Academic Services, so that plans can be developed for course and exam completion.

Health Services at Calvin continues to work closely with the Kent County Health Department, whose expertise and protocols have been helpful. In the event of a positive test result, Health Services will be notifying the Kent County Health Department about the updated status of all unvaccinated students, so that the department can follow their additional protocols for notifying others who may be impacted by the situation.

Again, we know this comes at an inopportune time, and we will continue to work with impacted students toward a successful finish to their semester.
May 7, 2016 update

There has been a possible case of mumps reported on Calvin’s campus. We should know by 5 p.m. Monday (May 9) if this case is confirmed. Please check the Calvin Health Services website for further updates to this situation. Mumps is a highly contagious disease characterized by swollen jaws and puffy cheeks, which may progress to more serious complications in adults. This viral illness is spread through the transfer of saliva or mucus (talking, coughing, sneezing, etc.).

Our Health Services department has been following Calvin protocols designed to guide us in situations like this and has been working closely with the Kent County Health Department to mitigate exposure and risk. Our primary concern has been for those students who, according to our records, are not vaccinated for mumps. These students have been contacted and have been offered vaccinations. By order of the Kent County Health Department, if the test results come back positive on Monday, those students who choose not to get vaccinated must either leave campus or stay alone in a nonpublic area such as a dorm room or apartment (no roommate). Any student who chooses to go home during the quarantine must inform Health Services so that the Kent County Health Department can notify their local county department.

While we recognize that this situation represents a potentially serious disruption to the remainder of this academic year, the college will work with impacted students to accommodate a successful finish. Students who choose to receive a vaccination will be welcome to remain on campus for the remainder of the academic year, while those students who decline the vaccination will receive additional information regarding options for living accommodations and how to complete their semester.

For more information about mumps, you are also welcome to visit http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4211.pdf.