
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Test Reveals Positive Case of Mumps on Calvin College Campus

GRAND RAPIDS – This afternoon the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) received the test results from a sample obtained from a student at Calvin College. The results, provided by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services confirms mumps infection.

The Kent County Health Department is aware of approximately 16 students on the campus who have not been vaccinated for the mumps virus and strongly recommends that those individuals now receive proper immunization. Calvin College will be offering vaccinations for those students.

For those students who are not willing to be vaccinated the Kent County Health Department has strongly recommended to Calvin College administration that they be excluded from all campus activities such as; attending classes, gathering in dining halls, attending extracurricular activities or attending any other public gathering. These measures are consistent with guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Mumps is a highly contagious vaccine preventable disease that is caused by a virus. It is spread through saliva and can be transmitted by coughing, sneezing, sharing drinks or utensils or even talking with an infected person. Mumps is best known for the puffy cheeks it causes. Other symptoms include fever, headache, muscle ache tiredness and loss of appetite. People with these symptoms are advised to contact a physician.

For more information on the mumps go to <http://www.cdc.gov/mumps/about/index.html>.

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.