



Parents Connection

A Message from the Director of Harvard University Health Services



Dear Harvard College Parents and Guardians,

It's hard to believe we are already two months into the new year and spring recess is right around the corner. At Harvard University Health Services (HUHS), we have enjoyed

working with and getting to know your students, not only in the clinical setting, but also through the peer counseling and peer education groups in which many of them are involved.

HUHS strives to be a resource for the Harvard community on health-related topics, and I encourage you and your student to reach out to us at any time.

As you may have heard, there was recently a confirmed case of meningococcal meningitis B at Yale University, and although there have been no such cases reported at Harvard, HUHS continues to monitor the situation closely.

We have on hand a supply of the vaccine for those who would like to be vaccinated. The vaccine requires two doses one month apart in order to be effective, and students can schedule a vaccination appointment at HUHS. Students who are not enrolled in Harvard's Student Health Insurance Plan will receive a bill for the cost. We advise students to contact their health insurance plan with any questions about coverage before they are vaccinated.

This evening I also [sent a message to the our community](#) about two confirmed cases of mumps at Harvard. Both mumps and meningococcal meningitis are spread by one-to-one contact, and like many other communicable diseases, some of the most important preventive measures are centered on simple good hygiene, such as covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, not sharing drinking glasses, and washing hands frequently.

The health and well-being of all Harvard students is of the utmost importance to everyone at HUHS, and we look forward to caring for and supporting your students during their time at Harvard.

Take care,

Paul J. Barreira, MD

Director, Harvard University Health Services

Henry K. Oliver Professor of Hygiene

Plan Ahead!



Housing Day

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Housing Day is coming up fast. This annual event sees students sorted into one of Harvard's 12 upperclass Houses. Freshmen are informed of their House assignment by the residents of their new Houses, who storm their dorm rooms with the good news.

In Case You Missed It ...

The Harvard Gazette is the official news source of Harvard University. [Subscribe to the Daily Gazette.](#)

Futuristic PIVOT App Serves Up Harvard History

Harvard formally launched its official interactive [online tour app](#) last week. The free app features innovative augmented reality technology and allows visitors to visually experience the history of Harvard with a swipe — or pivot — of their smart phone. [Read more](#)

Lucy Liu Applauds Students For Honoring Cultural Diversity

Liu was honored as the Harvard Foundation's Artist of the Year during Cultural Rhythms festival, its annual celebration of diversity at the University which gives College student groups the opportunity to perform in Sanders Theatre, while also honoring those who have made major artistic and philanthropic contributions. [Read more](#)

Get Involved

[Parent Involvement Opportunities](#) »

As an important member of the Harvard community, you might be looking for a way to participate in the life of the College. Visit [Parent Involvement](#) on the [Parent Programs website](#) to see a few meaningful ways for you to connect with Harvard.

Did You Know?

In 1917 an adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* was produced at Harvard Stadium, where the largest stage in the world was constructed to accommodate a cast of five thousand. More than 125,000 people saw it across a dozen performances. A poster from the production is [currently on display](#) in an [exhibition at Houghton Library](#), *Shakespeare: His Collected Works*, which runs through April 23, 2016.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Hasty Pudding Honorees

This year, the Hasty Pudding Theatricals honorees included [Woman of the Year](#) Kerry Washington and [Man of the Year](#) Joseph Gordon-Levitt. In January, Washington was paraded through Harvard Square and roasted by the Pudding, while dozens of College students braved the weather for a special afternoon event featuring Levitt in early February.

Resources

Parent Programs: (617) 495-8663

Financial Aid: (617) 495-1551

Harvard University Health Services (24 hour): (617) 495-5711

HUHS Counseling and Mental Health Services: (617) 495-2042

Faculty of Arts and Sciences Registrar: (617) 495-1543

Housing and Residential Life: (617) 496-2774

Harvard College Parents Fund: (617) 496-3819

Office of Student Life: (617) 495-1942

Freshman Dean's Office: (617) 495-7936

Additional Resources

NOTE: Are you receiving Parents Connection every month? Add parents@fas.harvard.edu to your address book or contact list to ensure the newsletter is delivered to your inbox without being placed in your junk or spam folder.