April 21, 2015

Dear Saint Mary's Community,

This is a follow-up to information shared yesterday regarding a suspected case of bacterial meningitis. Contra Costa Public Health has concluded its investigation of the case involving a student at Saint Mary’s College. Lab tests could not confirm what kind of bacteria caused the meningitis in the student, who is recovering. No other cases have been reported.

Over the past 24 hours, approximately 57 community members who were in close contact with the affected student received prophylactic antibiotics by the Health and Wellness Center staff, who were assisted by members of the Contra Costa Public Health Services Department. Bathrooms and classrooms received additional cleaning and sanitizing as a precautionary measure and the Health and Wellness Center provided updated information about meningitis on their website.

There are no further actions that are being recommended at this time by the Public Health Department, except to remain vigilant to any suspected symptoms. Contact the Health and Wellness Center immediately if you are experiencing any symptoms consistent with the illness (see FAQ).

We are grateful for the swift action of the Health and Wellness Center staff in responding to the affected student and working with the Contra Costa Public Health Department in preventative treatment for those in close contact.

We also encourage students to update their vaccinations with the Health and Wellness Center if they have not had the meningitis immunization.

Sincerely,

Jane Camarillo, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Student Life
Saint Mary's College of California