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PRESS RELEASE

Announcement by the Rectoral Authorities regarding the recent case of meningitis in a student of the Department of Veterinary Medicine at the Aristotle University

Thessaloniki, 9/4/2026

Regarding the recent outbreak of meningitis in a student of the Department of Veterinary Medicine, the Rectoral Authorities of Aristotle University report:

On April 4th, our student developed a high fever with headache and on the next day he visited the Emergency Department of Trikala General Hospital with these symptoms in reduced level of consciousness with additional cervical stiffness. He underwent several tests and meningococcal disease was identified; the required reporting actions were taken from the Hellenic National Public Health Organization (EODY). The patient remains intubated in the Intensive Care Unit in a stable and gradually improving condition.

The measures suggested by the Health Committee of Aristotle University, due to the passage of almost 10 days since the student's last contact with the academic environment (educational courses, Laboratory premises), are those that have already been taken based on the instructions of the Hellenic National Public Health Organization, and comprise the receipt of prophylactic antimicrobial treatment for 10 days from the contacts of the patient (tracing has already been done). A favorable circumstance was the coincidence of the start of Easter Holidays and the subsequent absence in the academic environment.

Particular emphasis is recommended on the necessity of vaccination to protect the academic community from similar future risks, as the Health Committee of Aristotle

University has already been declared in the recent event for the academic community and the city on the occasion of World Health Day.

We kindly request that this event be published, broadcast, and covered by the media