

40 Princes Gardens
London
SW7 1LY

tel: 020 7584 6301

fax: 020 7594 9390

email: imperialcollege.hc@nhs.net

www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk

Dr S A Freedman
Dr M S Daniels
Dr C Allen

September 2018

Dear Student

Imperial College Health Centre would like to welcome you to Imperial College. We hope you will have a happy, healthy and productive time here and remember we are here to help make this happen for you! Listed below is some hopefully useful information, about accessing the services you may need.

We strongly recommend that you get yourself registered with a doctor, before you become unwell. It is also a requirement of living in halls, that you are registered with an NHS GP, from the start of your course and without registration, there may be a delay in you accessing hospital care, if you need it.

All students studying on the South Kensington, Royal Brompton and St Mary's Campuses and all medical students (wherever you are studying) are eligible to use our services and should complete a registration form. Only those who live within our registration area may register with us, under the NHS. Those who live outside can still use our services while we are open, but should also register with an NHS GP, local to where they live.

You can download a registration form from the "New Patient" tab of our website – details below. Please return the completed and signed form to the Imperial College Health Centre or to one of the Health Centre teams who will be in various locations around College at the start of term. We will be able to advise you on whether you are eligible to register with us, under the NHS.

If you have any serious health problems and take regular prescribed medication, you may be asked to make an appointment with a doctor or nurse, to facilitate your on-going care. It would be helpful, if you could bring as much information about your medical conditions, with you to this appointment.

We strongly recommend that if you are under 25 years of age and are attending university for the first time, you are **vaccinated against Meningitis ACWY**. The vaccine is offered free to this group. Although rare, meningitis is a potentially life-threatening infection. It occurs more commonly amongst university students. One vaccination should protect you for life, against the ACWY strains of the bacteria.

It is also recommended that, whatever your age, you have two **MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccines**, which should be spaced at an interval of at least three months, to give lifetime cover. This is also free of charge. Measles is serious infection, affecting children and adults which can be associated with various severe complications. Mumps can affect fertility in men and rubella, in unvaccinated pregnant women, may cause miscarriage or significant health problems to the unborn baby.

If you have not had all of these, it is very important that you attend the Health Centre to do so as soon as possible, as the risk of infection (especially of meningitis) is greatest in the first few weeks of term. If you are uncertain about your vaccination status, it is safer to give the vaccines again, than potentially be unprotected. The Health Centre will be holding various vaccination clinics around the start of term.

For more information on the Health Centre, our services and the vaccination clinics or to download a registration form, please visit:

www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk

With best wishes,

Dr Sarah Freedman
On behalf of the Imperial College Medical Partnership