

Good afternoon Gauchos, I'm Danielle Fogel and this is Campus News. Although getting a workout in is great for your health, the long lines at the Rec Cen have nothing to do with getting in shape for Spring Break. For the past two weeks, thousands of students have been resting their arms in preparation for the free meningitis B vaccinations that are being offered at the Multi-Activity Court. For the students who have already flocked to receive their shots, the second dose will be offered in April in order to ensure full coverage. Although UCSB has seen no more cases of meningitis since late November, the CDC recommended a speedy availability of the vaccine since college students are an at risk group. Though the vaccine is not yet FDA approved for the entire US, it is important for students to receive the doses since the meningitis B strain is not covered by any other shot. In total, there were 4 confirmed cases of the bacterial disease on the UCSB campus, which was enough to label it an outbreak much like the one at Princeton. Since the introduction of the new vaccine as well as plenty of warnings from both the CDC and Student Health, UCSB students should now feel safe and well prepared. The best way to prevent future illnesses could be as simple as refraining from sharing drinks or food, especially in large party settings and in the freshman dorms...Party responsibly fellow Gauchos!

