



NEWS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
COURT HOUSE, NORRISTOWN, PA., BOX 311, 19404-0311

Frank X. Custer, Communications Director

Jessica Willingham, Communications Assistant

PHONE (610) 278-3061 FAX (610) 278-5943

COMMISSIONERS: JOSH SHAPIRO, *Chair*

VALERIE A. ARKOOSH, MD, MPH, *Vice Chair*

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Cause of Ursinus illnesses identified

Norristown, PA (February 15, 2016) – The Montgomery County Health Department today announced that the cause of the illness that sickened over 200 students, faculty and staff at Ursinus College over the past week is a Norovirus.

The health department has been constantly tracking the surveillance systems in place, and today received confirmation from Phoenixville Hospital that results of tests on two students from Ursinus College confirmed the presence of Norovirus.

“This is the agent we have suspected since this outbreak began,” said Montgomery County Commissioner Valerie Arkoosh, a physician and interim medical director of the health department. “While the illness has been truly unfortunate, this has been a model of cooperation between the various health agencies and Ursinus. We will continue to be vigilant and work closely with Ursinus to focus on hygiene measures to reduce transmission.”

Health Department officials have notified Ursinus officials of the identification of the organism. The officials indicated that the college has followed all health department instructions, and the illness is now expected to run its course.