At 8:56 a.m., Western Carolina University received a medical call at our Health and Human Sciences Building. Upon WCU Emergency Medical Services arriving, it was determined that there were multiple patients that needed care. Harris EMS was called as multiple students began complaining of light-headedness and other symptoms. WCU Police, Emergency Services and Facilities Management, along with Jackson County Emergency Management and the Cullowhee Volunteer Fire Department responded to the scene.

The building was evacuated and locked down.

The State of North Carolina’s Rapid Response Team 6 of Asheville was requested to assist the responding units in determining the cause of the incident.

At this time, there have been a total of 17 people who showed symptoms, some were transported to local hospitals. A final number has not yet been determined.

The incident is still under investigation and a cause has not been identified.

All day and evening classes at HHS, as well as other scheduled activities, are suspended today, Feb. 6. Classes and events on main campus, at our Biltmore Park instructional site in Asheville, and online continue as scheduled.

The safety of WCU’s students, staff and faculty is our top priority, and we will continue to update you as we get more information. Please go to emergency.wcu.edu for updates as they develop.

WCU Public Safety