

POLICY**Bars and Venues**Ref No: **BaV-21***Spiking Policy*

April 2024

DOCUMENT CONTROL	
Document Name	Spiking Policy
Document Reference	Bars and Venues Policy 21
Date of Document	APRIL 2024
Review Date	APRIL 2025
Revision Number	Rev 0
Document Owner	James Bingham
Adopted by	Health and Safety Committee
(If Adopted under Delegated approval State Name of Delegated Person)	
Date of Formal Adoption or Ratification	10/04/2024
Adoption Review Date	Oct 2024

Introduction – What is Spiking?

‘Spiking’ is when an individual puts alcohol or drugs into the victim’s drink or their body by injecting them without their knowledge or their consent. Typically, this occurs in crowded environments where the perpetrator actions can be under detected, such as a club or bar environment.

Also, spiking can occur when sharing cigarettes or vapes with strangers. Vape spiking entails lacing vapes with substances such as; vapourised LSD, synthetic marijuana, or painkillers, which can lead to serious health implications.

Examples of spiking include:

- Adding alcohol to a non-alcoholic drink without the knowledge and/or consent from the victim.
- Drugs (legal or illegal) can be added to drinks or injected, either without any knowledge and/or consent or the victim being advised of a different drug or dosage being given.
- Vape or cigarette spiking - giving someone drugs in a cigarette or e-cigarette without the knowledge and/or consent from the victim.
- Drink spiking is an illegal offence in the UK and can lead to up to 10 years in prison, or an even higher term if it is used to commit other offences like sexual assault or robbery.

How to Spot if You Have Been Spiked?

It’s also useful to familiarise yourself with the symptoms of spiking so you can act quickly if it happens to you or someone around you:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| • Lowered inhibitions | • Nausea |
| • Loss of balance | • Vomiting |
| • Visual problems | • Unconsciousness |
| • Confusion | • Memory loss |

The impact of spiking will depend on; what the individual was spiked with, the dosage, if they had already consumed alcohol or drugs and their size and weight. Symptoms can come into effect within 15 minutes and can last several hours.

What to Do if You Have Been Spiked?

It only takes a few minutes, 15 – 30 minutes, to feel the effects of a spiked drink. If your drink has been spiked, it’s unlikely you’ll be able to smell, see or taste any difference but if you feel off, or more drunk than you should be then get help straight away from venue staff or by calling an ambulance. This is a serious crime and should be reported to the police.

Spiking falls under the duty of the health and safety act to all individuals visiting our establishment. The policy is part of our H&S - Duty of Care and to reduce Sexual Offence Act 2003 (Chapter 42).

How to help a friend who you think has been spiked:

If your friend is showing any of the signs described above there are a few things you can do to help.

- Tell a bar manager, security, or member of staff at the venue.
- Stay with them and keep talking to them.
- Call an ambulance if their condition deteriorates.
- Don't let them go home on their own. Book a licensed taxi using an app such as Uber.
- Don't let them leave the venue with someone you don't know or trust.

If you're in one of our bars, please seek help from bar staff immediately. You will be taken to a safe place for proper help, and this might also help us identify the person who has spiked your drink.

What to do if you've been assaulted

If you feel comfortable doing so, report the assault to the police and book an appointment with your GP. One of the effects of date rape drugs can be amnesia, or loss of memory. That means it's possible that you won't be sure if you've been assaulted.

If you have been sexually assaulted it is important to remember that it wasn't your fault. Sexual violence is a crime, no matter who commits it or where it happens. There is support available for you confidentially at UCL. Please reach out to [us](#) or UCL, who will be able to advise you on what to do next, and support you through it.

What to Do if You Know Someone Who is Spiking?

Drink spiking is rarely done alone. Spiking someone's drink with a drug takes time to plan and organise and will have involved several people. You may have heard a plan being made to spike someone; it may have been shared casually in a private group chat. ALWAYS report this. It is a crime to spike someone and planning to commit a crime (conspiracy to commit a crime) is a criminal act.

Spiking is not just limited to injecting or using drugs. Drink spiking also includes making someone's drink stronger using alcohol without their consent. Buying someone a double shot when they asked for a single is a form of drink spiking.

You can report this to UCL via the Crime prevention and personal safety advisor, directly to the police, or directly to the venue staff if you are at an event.

Support Services and Reporting

Crime prevention and personal safety advisor

The crime prevention and personal safety advisor is a part of the UCL security team who can provide both staff and students with advice and guidance if you have faced any criminal incidents like assault, theft, fraud or scams, domestic abuse, or violence, online or in-person hate crime, online harassment or other digitally facilitated abuse like spyware, stalking, etc.

Sophie Bimson is UCL's crime prevention and personal safety advisor and can be contacted directly by email (s.bimson@ucl.ac.uk) or by requesting crime prevention and personal safety advisor when you report with 'report with contact details' option on Report and Support.

Reporting within the Bars

Within the bars, we internally report incidents using an accident/incident report form. All staff directly involved in incidents are expected to complete a report on the matter. These are reviewed by venue management, most notably by the Venues and Entertainment Manager, as the licensee/Designated Premise Supervisor for all sites. The licensee is responsible for liaising with UCL security to access/view CCTV footage, and partner with the Crime Prevention and Personal Safety Advisor as appropriate.

The duty manager on shift for the incident is responsible for submitting a report via UCL's riskNET platform, also. All riskNET submissions are discussed by the Health and Safety Committee.

Useful Links

- [Advice Service](#)
- [UCL Student Support and Wellbeing](#)
- [Crisis support contacts](#)
- [Report through UCL's Report + Support tool](#)
- [UCL Safe Zone](#)
- [Metropolitan Police - Spiking](#)
- [Students' Union UCL Bars – Accident/Incident Report Form](#)
- [UCL riskNET](#)

Safety Planning with Spiking

It's important to state that you can't control the actions of others. Below are some steps that can be taken to reduce the risk and likelihood of a spiking incident.

- Socialise with trusted friends, plan your night out including transport there and back.
- If you are at a venue that serves drinks, watch the bartender prepare your drink.
- Buy your own drinks.
- Avoid accepting drinks from strangers.
- If you accept the offer of a drink from a stranger, accompany them to the bar and take the drink from the bartender yourself.
- Do not share vapes or cigarettes with strangers or those you do not trust.

What the Union Bars do to Prevent Spiking?

At the Union bars, we have implemented the following measures to counter spiking and harassment, among other issues:

- Strict entry policy on all venues, most notably our members bars – Huntley, Mully's, and Phineas.
- Entry/exit searches and the right to search whilst inside the venue is a condition of entry. An entry bag search is mandatory on select nights where you will be informed by our security team, the others will be at the discretion of venue management.
 - On occasion, stricter searches will be enforced, these are often a reflection of incidents prior and as such could entail; bag searches, large pocket searches, wallet/purses, phone cases, etc.

- On occasion, we operate spot searches and full-body searches.
- Unwillingness to comply with any form of search will result in your immediate refusal/ejection from the bars.
- Serve tap water on request, rather than through communal jugs.
- Regularly train student staff in processes around safety and security. Including the following
All new bar staff / managers are required to complete the course under their mandatory training programme, as part of our improvement in health and safety management.
Staff are expected to renew these courses when the content changes.
 - [Ask for Angela](#) (WAVE/Met Police)
 - [Active Bystander](#) (Students' Union UCL)
 - [Drink Spiking Awareness](#) (CPL/RiskProof)
- Regularly liaise with police licencing officers on the safe running of our venues.
- Ensure all security staff and venue managers and bar supervisors are first aid trained.
- Have a zero-tolerance approach to sexual misconduct, drink spiking or harassment and where necessary ban anyone responsible of this behaviour from entering any of our venues.
- Provide freely available drink lids, spiking testing kits and bottle stops in our venues.

How do Our Staff Manage an Alleged Spiking Case?

Our Union Bars team are expected to follow these points when managing and alleged spiking case:

- Act quickly to check for symptoms of spiking.
- Move those allegedly spiked to a safe space for further investigation – multiple staff, ideally not of the same gender and role, to represent a broad spectrum of our team.
- Gather friends of the victim to ascertain available information.
- Collate contact information for the victim, friends of the victim, and the preparator if the latter has been apprehended.
- Provide first aid where applicable.
- Call 111 if symptoms align, for further guidance. Escalate to 999 if deemed appropriate by 111.
- Expect all staff involved, and those party to the alleged spiking, to complete a Union Bars Accident/Incident Form – to be reviewed by the Licensee.