

**SB**

**251**

# Alaska State Legislature

**Session Address:**

Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone: (907) 465-2679  
1-800-505-2678  
Fax: (907) 465-4822

**Interim Address:**

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Wasilla, AK 99654  
Phone: (907) 376-2679  
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Representative.Mark.Neuman@legis.state.ak.us

## *Representative Mark A. Neuman*

*District 15*

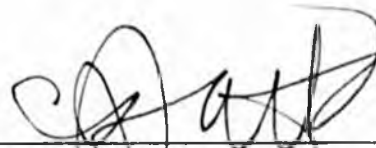
Due to the short time remaining this session, the sponsor has asked consideration in moving SB 251 from the House Special Committee on Education. If you concur, please sign below.

### **SB 251 An Act relating to immunization for meningitis of postsecondary students residing on campus.**

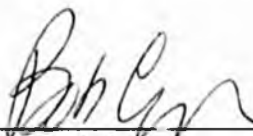
This bill would ensure that post-secondary schools that do not have on-campus dormitories or overnight facilities be exempted from the notification requirement currently in place, while insuring that students who will be utilizing school residential facilities are advised of related health risks prior to taking up residence there.



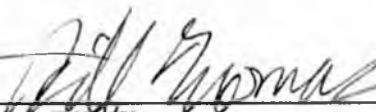
**Rep. Mark Neuman**  
Chair



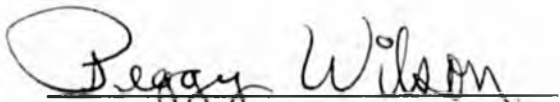
**Rep. Carl Gatto**  
Vice-Chair



**Rep. Bob Lynn**



**Rep. Bill Thomas**



**Rep. Peggy Wilson**



**Rep. Les Gara**



**Rep. Woodie Salmon**





Alaska State Legislature

Senator Con Bunde  
Senate District P

Vice Chair: Senate Finance Committee  
Chair: Senate Labor & Commerce Committee

**Sponsor Statement**  
**SB 251**  
**Postsecondary Students Meningitis Immunization**

Meningococcal disease is a seriously contagious, but preventable bacterial infection that can quickly impair or even be fatal if gone unnoticed. It spreads through the air or from person to person through oral contact or sharing of items. Given that knowledge, it is quite obvious that college dormitories would be an ideal breeding ground for meningitis. In order to better inform students of this risk, legislation was enacted in 2005 to require that post-secondary education facilities inform its students of the risks of meningitis and retrieve signed documentation that the student has received this information. This is a provision that was newly enacted with the passage of HB 185 in 2005.

*A consequence* of this legislation is that now even post-secondary schools that do not have on-campus dormitories or overnight facilities must disseminate related advisory information, obtain signed statements acknowledging receipt of the information by each student, and retain these records on file. This would include "day school" type programs and short-course programs such as software training or other similar avocational workshops where students are on site only for their instruction. The schools and training facilities in question do not offer residential living options, making the application of this notice and records retention requirement inappropriate to the circumstance. Doing so creates an undue administrative burden for the short-course and nonresidential school administrators and the students they serve.

SB 251 would ensure that they be exempted from the notification requirement currently in place, while insuring that students who will be utilizing school residential facilities are advised of related health risks prior to taking up residence there.

**Senate Bill: 251**

**Short Title: Postsecondary Student Meningitis Immunization**

**Sponsor: Senate Labor and Commerce**

**Current Version: SB 251**

**Contact: Jane Alberts, 465-4843**

**Summary:**

- Exempts post secondary educational institutions without dormitory facilities (day-school type instruction) from requirement to distribute information to its prospective students regarding meningitis

**Benefits:**

- reduces unnecessary paperwork for students and administrators in these "day-school" type programs
- would ensure that they be exempted from the notification requirement currently in place, while insuring that students who will be utilizing school residential facilities are advised of related health risks prior to taking up residence there.

**Background :**

- In 2005, the passage of HB 185 required post-secondary schools to distribute information to prospective students regarding meningitis and retrieve their confirming signatures verifying their receipt of this information. This action was deemed necessary because dormitories make for an ideal breeding ground for meningitis bacteria due to the close proximity of the students
- The consequence of HB 185 is that now post-secondary schools without dormitories are also required to distribute this information and collect signatures even when the threat of meningitis is reduced

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: SB 251  
 (S) Publish Date: 3/1/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Education  
 Title An Act relating to immunization for meningitis of RDU ACPE  
postsecondary students residing on campus. Component Program Admin. & Operations  
 Sponsor (S)Labor & Commerce  
 Requester (S) HES Component No. 2738

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0  
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill amends language to require Alaska postsecondary institutions to provide notice regarding meningococcal disease and maintain records of notice only to students who intend to reside in campus housing.

The Commission would implement by providing due notice to Alaska institutions and amending this requirement within its institutional authorization compliance review program.

Prepared by: Diane Barrans, Executive Director Phone 465-6740  
 Division: Executive Office Date/Time 2/3/06 11:45 AM  
 Approved by: Diane Barrans, Executive Director *Diane Barrans* Date 2/3/2006  
 Agency: Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 2  
 Bill Version: SB 251  
 (S) Publish Date: 3/1/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: University of Alaska  
 Title: Postsecondary Student Meningitis Immunization RDU \_\_\_\_\_  
 Component \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Requester \_\_\_\_\_ Component No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
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1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0  
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill would have no fiscal impact on the University.

Prepared by: Pat Pitney Phone 907-450-8191  
 Division: University of Alaska Date/Time 2/27/06 12:00 AM  
 Approved by: Pat Pitney Date 2/27/2006  
 Agency: University of Alaska



Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

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### **OUR HISTORY**

### **AUTHORIZATION INFO FOR ALASKA SCHOOLS**

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## Authorization Information for Alaska Schools

In an effort to minimize the administrative burden placed on schools resulting from requirements, ACPE has partnered with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's [Division of Business Partnerships](#) to streamline regulatory oversight maintaining compliance standards. Together, we provide for the protection and well citizens of Alaska through the oversight of and support for its postsecondary educational institutions. We serve this shared mission by establishing minimum standards concerning education, ethical business practices, institutional fiscal responsibility, and student safety.

All educational providers and the programs they offer must either be authorized or be exempt from authorization to operate in Alaska. If you are considering offering education in the state of Alaska, your first step should be completing this general [form](#).

For more information about requirements for postsecondary education providers visit our [frequently asked questions](#).

Additional questions about authorization or exemption of postsecondary schools in Alaska use an [email](#), or give us a call at (907) 269-2002.

### **Alaska Postsecondary Immunization Act**

In an effort to increase public awareness of meningococcal disease, the Alaska Postsecondary Immunization Act was signed into law on May 18, 2005. The new law requires that educational providers give written notice to each student regarding meningococcal disease as defined in the statute. The educational provider must obtain a signature from each student indicating whether the student has either 1) received an immunization against the disease, or 2) received written notification informing them of meningococcal disease. A sample [form](#) that may be used to meet the new requirement can be saved to your hard drive where your organization's letterhead can be inserted. You may also download these [frequently asked questions](#) and answers for distribution.

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[INSERT EDUCATIONAL PROVIDER LETTERHEAD]

# **MENINGITIS**

## **Know Your Risk**

### **Learn About Vaccination**

#### **Important Notice:**

Information in this handout has been gathered from the Alaska Postsecondary Student Immunization Act (HB185), signed into law effective May 18, 2005. Additional information was gathered from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services' Division of Public Health and the Web site of the American College Health Association at [http://www.acha.org/projects\\_programs/meningitis](http://www.acha.org/projects_programs/meningitis). The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) cannot provide medical information and is not responsible for any medical information provided to schools or to students. For questions specific to meningitis, immunization, and related diseases, please consult a qualified medical professional.

#### **Did you know?**

- **Meningococcal disease** is a contagious but largely preventable bacterial infection that most often leads to meningitis, an inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord, or a condition called meningococcal septicemia, which is an infection of the blood.
- **Meningococcal disease is caused** by bacteria called *Neisseria meningitidis* that are spread person-to-person through the air (usually by sneezing or coughing), through direct contact with an infected person, such as oral contact with shared items like cigarettes or drinking glasses, or through intimate contact, such as kissing. This disease is not as contagious as things like the common cold or the flu, and it is not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been.
- **Meningococcal disease is a serious illness** that can lead to death within a few hours of onset; one out of ten cases is fatal, and in one out of seven survivors it can lead to severe and permanent disabilities, such as brain damage, hearing loss, seizures, or limb amputation.

#### **What are the symptoms of meningococcal disease?**

- High fever, headache, and stiff neck are common symptoms of meningitis in anyone over the age of 2 years. A rash may also develop over parts of the body, or the entire body. Other symptoms include nausea, vomiting, discomfort looking into bright lights, confusion, and sleepiness. These symptoms can develop over several hours, or they may take 1 to 2 days. As the disease progresses, seizures may develop. If you notice these symptoms – in yourself, friends, or others – you should contact your college health service or local hospital immediately.

#### **Who is at risk for meningococcal disease?**

- Anyone can get meningococcal meningitis, but scientific evidence suggests that college freshmen living in campus housing are at moderately increased risk to get this disease when compared to the general college population. The reasons for this increased risk are still not known for certain, but factors may include such things as crowded living situations, bar patronage, active or passive smoking, irregular sleep patterns, and sharing personal items.

- Other risk groups include infants and young children, household contacts to a person with meningococcal disease, refugees from parts of the world with high rates of meningococcal disease, laboratory workers who work with this bacteria, and military recruits.

**Are there vaccines against meningococcal disease?**

- Yes, there are two safe and effective vaccines that protect against four strains of the bacteria that cause meningococcal disease – serogroups A, C, Y, and W135. Immunization against meningococcal disease will decrease the risk of contracting the illness from these meningococcal strains.

**How can meningococcal disease be prevented?**

- **Many cases of meningococcal disease can be prevented.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American College Health Association recommend that all first-year students living in residence halls be vaccinated against meningococcal disease. All other college students under the age of 25 years who wish to reduce their risk for the disease may choose to be vaccinated.
- **Vaccination is safe and effective.** It protects against four of the five most common strains (or types) of bacteria that cause meningitis. Approximately 70 to 80 percent of cases in the college age group are caused by strains that are potentially vaccine-preventable. The most commonly reported adverse reactions among adolescents and adults in clinical studies were pain at the injection site, headache, and fatigue. These respond to simple measures (ibuprofen or acetaminophen) and resolve spontaneously within a few days.

**For More Information**

To learn more about meningitis and immunization, visit the websites of the American College Health Association, [www.acha.org/meningitis](http://www.acha.org/meningitis), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub\\_meningitis.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_meningitis.htm).

I have received a copy of this notice on meningococcal disease.

I have received an immunization against meningococcal disease.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT of HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIVISION of PUBLIC HEALTH

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
P.O. BOX 110610  
JUNEAU, AK 99811-0610  
PHONE: (907) 465-3090  
FAX: (907) 465-4631

February 13, 2006


The Honorable Con Bunde  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 506  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Bunde:

I write in support of Senate Bill 251, introduced last week by the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee to clarify the law for Alaska postsecondary education institutions notifying students about meningococcal disease. This bill amends a law passed by the Legislature last year that requires all students attending college in Alaska to sign a form indicating they have been immunized against meningitis or have received information warning of its dangers. The amendment proposed in SB 251 will limit the requirement to only those students "who intend to reside in campus housing". Because meningitis rates, though extremely low, are more likely to increase in group living situations, it makes sense to reduce unnecessary paperwork and limit the law just to those students living in campus housing.

Thank you for your interest in this issue.

Sincerely,



Richard Mandsager, M.D.  
Director  
Division of Public Health

cc: Karleen Jackson, PH. D., Commissioner  
Department of Health and Social Services

Sherry Hill  
Special Assistant, Department of Health and Social Services

Jay Butler, M.D.  
Chief, Section of Epidemiology, Division of Public Health

# STATE OF ALASKA

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

3030 VINTAGE BLVD  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-7109  
VOICE (800) 441-2962  
In Juneau (907) 465-6740  
TDD (907) 465-3143  
FAX (907) 465-3293

February 1, 2006

The Honorable Con Bunde  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 506  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SB251

Dear Senator Bunde:

At your request, I have reviewed SB251, relating to immunization for meningitis of postsecondary students residing on campus. From my reading, the modifications to current law pose no concerns from the Commission's perspective and will alleviate the need for schools which are otherwise exempt from other authorization requirements, due to the either the brevity or avocational nature, to comply with this single recordkeeping requirement.

Sincerely,



Diane Barrans  
Executive Director

DB/dv

 **NETWORK  
BUSINESS**  
SYSTEMS  
The Technology People

Scott Thorson, CEO  
1835 South Bragaw Street, Suite 425  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

(907) 272-2888 (Phone)  
(907) 272-7117 (Fax)

scott@nbsys.com  
www.nbsys.com

February 16, 2006

Senator Fred Dyson  
State Capitol, Room 121  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Dyson:

I am writing to you as Health, Education and Social Services Chair to ask for your support of Senate Bill 251. This bill may not look like much when compared with other more weighty issues you will be dealing with during the current legislative session, but to many who run post secondary education training facilities it will solve a problem that has grown into a very thorny issue. I urge you to support this bill and help move it to the Senate floor for a vote.

Last year the legislature passed House Bill 185 which required all post secondary institutions in Alaska, without exception, to collect a meningitis disclosure form from each student. These forms must be distributed, signed by each student, collected and maintained in a filing system for an undetermined period of time. While I think the original intent of the bill was good, the unintended consequences of this bill are objectionable, and they are causing unnecessary problems for students and post secondary schools throughout Alaska.

Senate Bill 251 makes changes to the statutes limiting compliance only to institutions that maintain dormitories as part of their infrastructure. This makes sense because dormitories are what the original bill seemed designed to regulate. Without SB 251, all post secondary schools in Alaska will have to comply. Fight schools, real estate schools, trade schools, religious academies, tribal colleges and any other school that is not in the K-12 system will have to comply with these requirements unless SB 251 becomes law.

Many of our students do not like to sign this document primarily because they feel it is an invasion of their privacy. I tend to agree with their assessments because the form asks them to disclose whether or not they have had their meningitis shot. I am not comfortable gathering this information and storing it for the long term. I don't need to know about this information to effectively deliver classes.

Our classes are no different than any 5 or 6 hour business meeting that takes place all over Alaska every day. Our students do not understand why they need to sign these forms, many times they feel their privacy is violated and they do not see any value in toward resolving meningitis problems in Alaska. I find it sort of ironic that under current Federal and Alaska law, people with AIDS have more medical privacy than a student sitting in a Word class in our classroom. It would be one thing if this procedure made Alaska safer from meningitis, but in reality these requirements in schools without dormitories do nothing toward preventing this disease. It also needlessly increases our costs.

Once again, please support this bill so it can be enacted into law. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Thorson  
CEO



## WOSTMANN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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February 23, 2006

Senator Con Bunde  
State Capitol, Room 506  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Reference No: 06020026

Dear Senator Bunde,

I would like to express my appreciation for your support of Senate Bill 251.

As you are aware, last year the legislature passed House Bill 185 which required all post secondary institutions in Alaska, without exception, to collect a meningitis disclosure form from each student. These forms must be distributed, signed by each student, collected and maintained in a filing system for an undetermined period of time. While I think the original intent of the bill was good, the unintended consequences of this bill are objectionable and onerous, and they are causing unnecessary problems for students and post secondary schools and classes throughout Alaska.

Wostmann & Associates is a small Alaskan information technology firm with offices in Juneau and Anchorage. Based on suggestions from a number of our customers we began providing post secondary training classes in December 2005. Our first class consisted of a 2-day, 8 hour/day session on Project Management that was held at the Centennial Hall in Juneau. There were 8 students enrolled and the class was given in the lecture style of training. The class was well received and we plan to provide similar short, intensive training sessions in other information technology topics. Our target audience is information technology managers throughout the state. Our classes are designed to be given during the work day so that busy professionals can obtain useful work skills in a short period of time.

Since this is a new endeavor for our company, we were surprised when the Postsecondary Education Commission required us to distribute, collect and maintain the meningitis disclosure form from each student. Although we can understand the importance of informing all Alaskans about the dangers of meningitis, we do not believe that the current requirement for the collection and maintenance of this information is appropriate for a firm of our size and type of training we offer. We do not believe that our students are any more susceptible to contracting meningitis than any other public sector or private sector employee that attends all day business meetings, conferences, or trade meetings throughout the State every day.

Senate Bill 251 makes changes to the statutes limiting compliance only to institutions that maintain dormitories as part of their infrastructure. We believe that the original bill was designed for schools that provide dormitory accommodations. Without SB 251, all postsecondary schools in Alaska will have to comply. Flight schools, real estate schools, trade schools, religious academies, tribal colleges and any other school that is not in the K-12 system will have to comply with these requirements unless SB 251 becomes law.

Once again, our sincere thanks to you and all the members of the Labor and Commerce Committee for your sponsorship of this bill. Please feel free to contact me if there is anything I can do to help move this bill along in the process.

Sincerely,

Karen R. Morgan  
Wostmann & Associates, Inc.  
CEO

---

Results through Information Technology

Linda Hobert  
4227 Checkmate Drive  
Anchorage, Ak. 99508  
1/16/2006

Jane Alberts  
State Capitol, Room 506  
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182

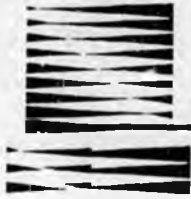
**Encouraging passing of SB251 – Meningitis Medical Release Form**

*Regarding Senate Bill 251 – changing the wording on the original statute passed last year to allow students who are taking specialty courses lasting one day or short periods of time should not be required to sign this form. Only students residing full time in dormitories would need to fill out the form.*

As a person working full time, I am sometimes required for my job to attend a one day or one week class at a local training facility especially for the latest computer learning classes (example of facilities would be CompuCom or Network Business Systems in Anchorage). I have taken many classes at these locations and thousands of other Alaskan "every day workers" are taking this same type of training. I believe in this type of situation, signing the meningitis form should not be a mandatory issue.

An example of my own case... I had 2 different one day classes within a 2 week time period and I was required to sign the meningitis form both times or I would not be allowed to take the class. I believe this to be a waste of time, not necessary for this type of situation. I believe this to be a redundant process and also, I don't agree with giving out private medical information under this type of situation.

I encourage the passage of SB251. This will allow the situation to be more realistic for the intended use of this medical release form.



# north star computing

## COMPUTER RESOURCE CENTER

815 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite 100, Fairbanks, AK 99701

Phone: (907) 452-7325 Fax: (907) 452-6717

<http://www.nsctraining.com> Email: [staff@nsctraining.com](mailto:staff@nsctraining.com)

- Training
- Consulting
- Rentals
- Testing Center

**nsc**

Jane Alberts  
(907) 465-4843

RE: Meningitis bill (SB 251) The bill is scheduled for a hearing on this coming Monday, February 27 at 1:30 PM.

I have been with this post secondary school for 11 years. The intent of the original bill (House Bill 185) was to require post secondary institutions with students staying in dormitories to make a disclosure to their students about meningitis and to collect information about which students have been immunized. The way the original bill was written required the Commission on Post Secondary Education to extend this requirement to ALL post secondary institutions in Alaska, not just those with dormitories.

I run classes that are less than 80 hours and most of our classes are only 6-9 hours long. The requirement to collect these forms infringes on a student's right to privately maintain their medical information. The post secondary institution is required to keep a record of this disclosure for each student for an indefinite period of time. With students coming and going on a regular basis and most students only returning once within the year, this requirement poses a large burden on small institutions financially to copy the forms, in space to maintain the forms, and the manpower to collect and file the forms.

I do not see any value in requiring post secondary training facilities to collect this information. My institution is no different than the ice rink and I am not required to sign a form before using that facility!

It angers my students to have to disclose such information and it takes class time away from what they are here to learn.

The Commission on Post Secondary Education (the regulatory agency charged with enforcing these regs) agrees that these requirements are not effective in stopping meningitis except for those institutions that have dormitories.

The Department of Health and Social Services also supports doing away with this requirement for institutions without dormitories. They do not see any value in making institutions without dormitories comply with these regulations in their fight against meningitis.

Requiring post secondary institutions without dormitories to collect this information does not resolve the problem (advising students about the problems meningitis causes) that was trying to be solved.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me 907-452-7325.

Sincerely,

Lisa Shaffer  
President