

## CHAPTER 284

**AN ACT** requiring meningococcal vaccinations for students at certain institutions of higher education, amending P.L.2000, c.25 and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

**BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. Section 2 of P.L.2000, c.25 (C.18A:61D-7) is amended to read as follows:

C.18A:61D-7 Meningococcal vaccinations, dissemination of information about meningitis to college students.

2. Beginning with the 2000-2001 school year, each four-year public or private institution of higher education in this State, in a manner prescribed by regulation of the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and consistent with the purposes of section 1 of P.L.2000, c.25 (C.26:2X-1), shall:

a. provide information about meningitis, as well as the meningococcal vaccination requirement established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2003, c.284 (C.18A:62-15.1), to all prospective students prior to their matriculation, and include with that information notice of the availability and benefits of a meningococcal vaccination; and

b. develop procedures for facilitating, receiving and recording student responses to the information provided pursuant to subsection a. of this section, including: compliance with the vaccination requirement established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2003, c.284 (C.18A:62-15.1); and the decision of any student who is exempted from that requirement to receive the vaccination.

C.18A:62-15.1 Meningococcal vaccination required for certain students residing in college dorms.

2. a. Beginning in September 2004, a new student enrolling in a program leading to an academic degree at a public or private institution of higher education in this State, who resides in a campus dormitory, shall receive a meningococcal vaccination as a condition of attendance at that institution, except as provided in section 3 of this act.

As used in this act, "institution of higher education" means a university or college that provides a four-year program of instruction.

b. A student shall present evidence of the vaccination required pursuant to subsection a. of this section to the institution in a manner prescribed by the institution.

c. The Department of Health and Senior Services shall require each public or private institution of higher education in this State to offer the vaccination required pursuant to subsection a. of this section to its students through the institution's student health services program or through a contractual agreement with a community health care provider.

d. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to carry out the purposes of subsections a., b. and c. of this section and section 3 of this act.

e. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require a student who does not reside in a campus dormitory to receive a meningococcal vaccination.

C.18A:62-15.2 Exemption from vaccination.

3. a. A student shall not be required to receive a vaccination pursuant to subsection a. of section 2 of this act based upon one of the following:

(1) a written statement submitted to the institution of higher education by a licensed physician indicating that the vaccine is medically contraindicated for a specific period of time and the reasons for the medical contraindication, based upon valid medical reasons as determined by regulation of the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, which shall exempt the student from the vaccination for the stated period of time; or

(2) a written statement submitted to the institution of higher education by the student, or the student's parent or guardian if the student is a minor, explaining how the administration of the vaccine conflicts with the bona fide religious tenets or practices of the student, or the parent or guardian, as appropriate; except that a general philosophical or moral objection to the vaccination shall not be sufficient for an exemption on religious grounds.

b. In the event of an actual or threatened outbreak of meningitis at a public or private

institution of higher education in this State, the institution may exclude from attendance a student who has been exempted from the vaccination requirement of this act pursuant to subsection a. of this section, as determined by the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 14, 2004.