



March 4, 2016

Here at the Fairfield University Student Health Center, we are very exacting in our promotion and enforcement of Connecticut State immunization laws. We do support the intention of *Bill No. 5539, An Act Concerning Meningitis Vaccines*, which is to maintain a healthy university community and minimize disease transmission. While we do support the *intent* of the proposed legislation, we cannot support it as written because the effective date (July 1, 2016) is unworkable. Typically, students receive all their routine immunizations at their pediatrician's office prior to enrolling in college. Presently, the serogroup B meningococcal vaccine is NOT yet uniformly available through community pediatric practices.

If the effective date of July 1, 2016 is maintained, the *majority of enrolling residential students* would NOT be fully vaccinated for serogroup B meningococcal disease by "Move-In Day" in August. Assuming students could obtain dose #1 in the series, this would lead to a policy of *conditional admittance* to on-campus housing. This would require the university health services staff to subsequently vet immunization dose #2 (and potentially immunization dose #3) for the *majority of students*. This type of process would be appropriate in a public health emergency situation, but in a non-emergency context would place an undue burden on the university health services staff and university students.

We ask the legislature to consider deferring the mandatory requirement at least until the 2017-2018 academic year. This would allow time to focus on educating Health Care Providers and students on the value of this vaccine. Additionally, from an enforcement perspective, if the requirement was deferred until September 2017, the majority of in-coming students would be able to provide Fairfield University with documentation of receiving the complete serogroup B meningococcal vaccine series simplifying the immunization compliance process.

Sincerely,

*Julia Duffy APRN*

**Julia A. Duffy MS, APRN, BC**  
*Director, Student Health Center*

**Fairfield University**  
1073 North Benson Road  
Fairfield, Connecticut 06824  
T. 203-254-4000 ext. 2241  
[www.fairfield.edu](http://www.fairfield.edu)  
[jduffy@fairfield.edu](mailto:jduffy@fairfield.edu)