

**AMERICAN ACADEMY McALLISTER
INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.**

AAMI

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Dear Prospective Student/Parent:

I am writing with reference to the law in New York State on the subject of meningococcal meningitis disease. On July 22nd, 2003 Governor Pataki signed **New York State Public Law 2167** requiring institutions, including colleges and universities, to distribute information in relation to meningococcal meningitis disease and vaccination to every student enrolled for at least six semester hours or the equivalent per semester, or at least four semester hours per quarter. The law affects all students meeting the enrollment criteria, whether they live on or off campus and went into effect on August 15, 2003.

The American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service is required to maintain documentation of each of the following for each student:

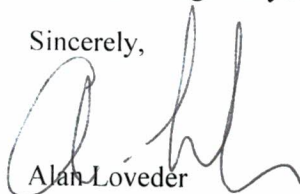
- A signed meningococcal meningitis disease and vaccine information response form by the student, student's parents, or guardian. This must include information on the availability and cost of meningococcal meningitis vaccine.
- A record of meningococcal meningitis immunization within the past 10 years.
- A signed meningococcal disease risks and refusal of meningococcal meningitis immunization acknowledgement by the student, student's parents, or guardian.

Meningitis is rare. However, when it strikes, its flu-like symptoms make diagnosis difficult. If not treated early, meningitis can lead to swelling of fluid surrounding the brain and spinal column, permanent disability, hearing loss, brain damage, seizures, limb amputation, and even death. This disease strikes about 3,000 Americans each year and claims about 300 lives. Overall, cases of this disease among adolescents and young adults have increased by nearly 60 percent since the early 1990's.

A vaccine is available to protect you against the four types of bacteria that cause meningitis in the United States. The average cost of the vaccination is \$100 to \$150. I encourage you to contact your personal physician about being vaccinated.

I urge you to review the enclosed documents carefully. Kindly complete the meningococcal meningitis response form and return it to AAMI at your earliest convenience. Please note the response form must be returned to us no later than 30 days after you start classes. Failure to comply, may lead to disciplinary action taken against you.

Sincerely,


Alan Loveder
Director of Admissions