

## FAIRCHOICE SYSTEMS: A Complete Solution for Vaccination Compliance

### Introduction: Protect Student Health, Reduce Campus Risks

With thousands of incoming students each year, campus health officers face the important public health challenge of protecting the campus community from the threat of infectious disease. FairChoice Systems has pioneered a new way for schools to track and fulfill student vaccination requirements online. Migrating vaccination processing to the Web reduces cost, minimizes delays, and achieves compliance with health regulations.

New York Public Health Law § 2167 requires all incoming students enrolling for more than six semester hours or four credit hours per quarter to provide either (1) proof of immunization against meningococcal meningitis or (2) confirmation they have been informed about the risks of meningococcal meningitis and have declined to be vaccinated. If students do not fulfill this mandated requirement, they are not permitted to register for class. The institution then has thirty days to achieve compliance with New York Public Health Law § 2167, maintaining clear, accurate, and accessible records for each student. FairChoice provides an easy-to-deploy Web-enabled system for meningitis vaccination processing that saves time, reduces cost, and safeguards the health of your community.

### The Unreliable Current Process

The majority of colleges and universities rely on manual collection of paper forms to fulfill the requirements of New York Public Health Law § 2167. For these schools, the process is time consuming, tedious, and allows opportunity for human error. Identifying, notifying, and tracking non-compliant students consumes staff time, taxes resources and splits focus. Weeks each summer are devoted to:

- Logging received forms
- Organizing records
- Tracking responses
- Tracking non-responses
- Follow-up emails, phone calls
- More follow-ups
- Generating “hold” reports

Hundreds of hours are lost each year as schools try to satisfy their legal obligations.

The negative impact of manually processing paper forms extends beyond the summer:

- **Student Frustration:** In the fall, non-compliant students receive registration “holds” — causing additional disruptions and frustration for the student.
- **Personal Health Information (PHI) Exposure:** A student’s private medical records may sit in very public areas: a desktop, a fax machine, or an open mail box. The more hands that touch a student’s records, the greater the chance that the student’s privacy will be violated.

- **Disconnected Coordination:** Tracking compliance with a paper checklist and spreadsheet inhibits information sharing throughout the institution. In the event of an outbreak, miscommunication is not an option. Fairchoice provides easy and immediate access to student immunization records, allowing for clear, rapid communication about students who may be at risk.

NYPHL § 2167 is not just a hurdle for administrators or another deadline that must be met. NYPHL § 2167 is in place to protect students. FairChoice presents an effective course of action that can be deployed on your campus in fewer than six weeks.

### In five sentences, why FairChoice?

- 1) FairChoice ensures that students understand the importance of health requirements and are in compliance – prior to their arrival on campus.
- 2) FairChoice maintains accurate and up to date records about who has and has not been vaccinated
- 3) FairChoice allows all stakeholders – including admissions and registration officers – to monitor compliance status rates in real-time without revealing personal health information.
- 4) FairChoice strengthens the bond between a school and its students and communication between departments.
- 5) FairChoice allows campus health officers to focus on managing campus health – not paperwork.



## How FairChoice Health works

FairChoice begins to help the moment a student accepts an offer of admission:

### The Story of the Incoming Student

- FairChoice notifies all incoming students via email
- An email link guides the student to a customized secure portal that has the look and feel of the college or university's Web site
- The student reviews information about the meningitis vaccination and risks of not being vaccinated
- The student certifies one of the following options:
  - a) I have had the vaccine and on the specific date indicated
  - b) I want to receive the vaccine and have 30 days to receive the vaccine
  - c) I have read the materials and I do not wish to receive the vaccine.

Time elapsed: Less than two minutes.

FairChoice preserves the student's response in a secure electronic vault accessible for reporting and ongoing health management.

## Students Failing to Comply with the Certification Process

FairChoice also tracks students who are not compliant. Until the student fulfills campus health requirements – FairChoice sends reminder emails while providing health services with real-time information and reports on non-compliant students. FairChoice works with the institution to develop a communication strategy that increases the likelihood of a 100% compliance rate upon the first day of class.

## A Coordinated Approach

After the student logs on and submits the required information, their job is done—but the institution can utilize the flexibility of the FairChoice platform in a number of ways that are difficult or impossible with paper forms. FairChoice generates a variety of real-time reports for tracking and managing each step of the meningitis compliance process. FairChoice reporting capabilities enable campus health officers to:

- Transfer each student's meningitis certification information into the campus health service electronic health record.
- Generate compliance reports for state-wide authorities and vaccination data repositories
- Provide campus leaders with a real-time summary data on compliance rates
- Create new reports that can meet the specific needs of the institution.

HIPAA- and FERPA-compliant reports can be shared with multiple campus stakeholders so that the school has a coordinated pro-active strategy for health management. Whether the meningitis certification process was incomplete or not submitted, all departments will be able to assist those delinquent students with consistent, accurate information. Reports can be configured so that the department see only as much information as there is a need to know. Real-time reports empower student health service managers and other campus stakeholders with the ability to move quickly if a case of meningitis is diagnosed.

## 50,000 Students Can't Be Wrong

FairChoice is based on technology developed and in use at Columbia University. This system has proven to be invaluable in tracking a large student population – residents and non-residents – and has met with great student satisfaction. FairChoice integrates with your institution's existing systems – rather than replacing legacy systems – thereby increasing cost-savings and reducing implementation time.

## A win for Students and Administrators

*The student wins* because from the moment they are accepted, they are welcomed into the student body with an immediate eye towards their well-being. A student at a school employing FairChoice benefits from a more organized, fully compliant, and safer certification process. A student can be confident that their information will be accessible in the event of an emergency. At the same time, the integrity of the student's confidential medical information is preserved. FairChoice does this automatically, exemplifying HIPAA regulations and other privacy best practices.

*The administration wins* because Implementation of FairChoice reduces wasted effort, eliminates paper, and accelerates service. Administration of the meningitis vaccination certification process no longer requires intense personnel time to review each immunization record for accuracy, track non-compliant students, and generate reports. FairChoice handles the entire process – from beginning to end – through a secure online system. The potential for exposure of personal health information due to unauthorized access to paper records is eliminated. Increased efficiency and accuracy allows resources to be maximized.

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*Take a moment to compare how your institution complies with New York State Law 2167 and the service FairChoice offers you. FairChoice provides a cost-effective, efficient, streamlined approach to your administrative needs.*