



Marlboro Central School District

Michael M. Brooks
Superintendent of Schools

October 15, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have received reports of one (1) confirmed case of an antibiotic-resistant skin infection called *Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)* on our JV Football Team. One (1) additional player has skin lesions, but MRSA infections have not been confirmed with this student. We want to assure you that we are doing all that is necessary to provide a safe and healthy school environment for our students and staff. We are working proactively across the entire district to address this issue in a preventive manner. The school is taking additional cleaning measures in areas frequented by the student.

Staphylococcus Aureus (SA) is a germ that is commonly found on the skin and in the nose of 20-30 percent of healthy individuals, according to the New York State Department of Health. Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus is a strain that is resistant to certain antibiotics. If a diagnosis of MRSA is made, it is treatable with a different type of antibiotic.

When the infection is contracted in community settings such as schools, known as CA (Community Associated) MRSA, it is most likely through direct skin-to-skin contact and sharing personal items such as towels and razors. Good personal hygiene is the most effective way to prevent an infection. This consists of hand washing, proper care of skin injuries and infections, and avoiding sharing personal items.

The infection commonly causes boils and soft tissue infection. The symptoms include redness, areas warm to the touch, pain, drainage, discomfort and swelling. If your child is displaying these symptoms, please contact your family physician as well as the school nurse's office. As always, health information is kept strictly confidential.

Here are some of the proactive steps we are taking to ensure the well-being of our students:

- In addition to the regular cleaning that takes place in all areas of school buildings, we will take the appropriate steps to sanitize certain areas of high student traffic and where students work in close proximity to each other;
- Information about MRSA in athletic settings, including guidelines for prevention, has been shared with our physical education and coaching staff;
- We will continue to encourage good hygiene practices, such as regular and thorough hand washing, among our entire student population.

Please see the reverse side of this sheet for answers to commonly asked questions about this infection.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Brooks
Superintendent of Schools