



# MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT



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October 29, 2007

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In view of the recent news coverage of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA), we wanted to provide you with information and to address concerns you may have.

Staphylococcus aureus bacteria or "staph" are normally present on the skin and in the nose of many healthy people without causing any health problems. However, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MRSA is a type of staphylococcus bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics. Sometimes under the right conditions staph can cause an infection. Most of these skin infections are minor (such as pimples or boils) and can be treated without antibiotics. However, wounds left untreated can become serious if bacteria enters the bloodstream. If a skin infection becomes more serious and needs antibiotic treatment, a culture from the infection site must be obtained. A medical laboratory test will determine the type of staph infection and which antibiotics will be most effective in treating that infection. It is at this time that MRSA bacteria would be discovered and appropriate treatment would be determined for that infection.

Please be assured that Muhlenberg School District is taking preventive measures and will continue to stress good hygiene and cleaning habits. Students and families can help prevent the spread of staph bacteria by:

- Covering all wounds
- Frequently washing their hands
- Not sharing personal items such as towels, razors, and uniforms
- Showering after athletic activities
- Frequently washing athletic uniforms and equipment

For further information, the following websites may be helpful:

[www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar\\_mrsa\\_ca\\_public.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca_public.html)  
[www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?Q=248944&A=190](http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?Q=248944&A=190)

If a student is suspected of having a staph infection, they will be referred to their family doctor for further evaluation. In addition, we will report any founded cases of MRSA to the Berks County Department of Health and follow all recommendations from this agency.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact your healthcare provider or the school nurses' office.

Sincerely,

School Nurse

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