

PORT WASHINGTON Union Free School District

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Dear Parents:

As many of you may be aware, there seems to be a growing number of *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections among students, particularly student athletes. Fortunately, there have been no such cases reported in the District. This is primarily due to the excellent precautionary measures that have occurred within the District over the past several years.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with additional preventive steps that you can take to help avoid the spread of MRSA. The most effective way is **good personal hygiene**. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises:

- Keep hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water, or using an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.
- Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels or razors.

Further information about MRSA can be obtained from the following websites:

www.cdc.gov/features/MRSAinSchools/ or

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca_public.html>.

The District remains attentive to this and other concerns regarding student health and safety. Clearly defined procedures for maintaining clean facilities are already in place. In a continued effort to safeguard the health of students and staff we are reviewing cleaning procedures and increasing the frequency of sanitizing high risk areas in our schools (i.e., gyms, locker rooms, bathrooms, and the nurse office in each building.).

Specific questions regarding MRSA and student athletics should be directed to Mr. Kenneth Marlborough, Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics, at (516) 767-5990. Other health related questions should be directed to the nurse in your child's building.

This information is provided as an increased effort to keep you updated and knowledgeable about MRSA.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. Mooney, Ed.D.

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Cc: Dr. Geoffrey N. Gordon
Mr. Kenneth Marlborough