

Memo

To: All Parents and Guardians
From: Dr. Sam H. McGowen, Superintendent
Date: 10/25/2007
Re: *Health Information Update for Parents and Guardians*

Recently, there has been a good deal of publicity regarding the increasing incidence of a dangerous strain of *Staphylococcus aureus*, commonly known as MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus, *MRSA*.) The Mascoutah School District is being proactive in helping to reduce the chances of this infection within the school setting and community. In addition to the steps that are being taken at school, the district has elected to inform parents and guardians of best practices as outlined by the Illinois Department of Health information sheets that are attached. One attachment describes the symptoms and methods of transmission for this condition. Most importantly, it offers information on proper treatment and prevention. Please read through this information carefully.

The district is also providing a sheet of basic hygiene guidelines. These daily practices will not only prevent the spread of the staph infection but other much more common ailments such as influenza and the common cold. We ask that you help your children develop these healthy habits. Our faculty and staff reinforce these concepts with our students on a daily basis. Our custodial and maintenance staffs clean and disinfect the buildings, locker rooms, and restrooms on a daily basis.

For more information, the web address of the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta is as follows: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca_public.html

If you have any questions concerning the attached information, please contact one of our school nurses. **Working together will help assure that students have a safe and healthy learning environment.**