
MEMO FROM . . .

HERBERT D. WISEMAN

Director, Secondary Operations



DATE: October 18, 2007

TO: All Elementary, Middle and High School Principals

SUBJECT: Staph Infections (MRSA)

Staph infections, including the deadly Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), have spread through schools nationwide in recent weeks, according to health and education officials.

MRSA is a strain of staph bacteria that does not respond to penicillin and related antibiotics but so far can be treated with other drugs. The infection can be spread by skin-to-skin contact or sharing an item used by an infected person, particularly one with an open wound. However, many of the infections are being spread in gyms and locker rooms where athletes, perhaps suffering from cuts or abrasions, share sports equipment.

Principals must meet with Athletic Directors, Athletic Trainers, P.E. Teachers, Building Supervisors and Head Custodians to make sure all physical education equipment, including mats and pads, benches, balls, weightlifting and exercise equipment, and all seats and handlebars are wiped down periodically throughout each day with disinfectant.

In addition, Principals should announce the seriousness of recent nationwide staph infections and that students with open wounds or abrasions need to exercise caution, keep sores covered and report to the Clinic with any new cuts or open wounds.

Please do this without fail. We are faced with what could become an even more widespread and critical national health problem.

cc: James W. Browder, Ed.D
Michael McNerney
Constance Jones, Ph.D
Keith Martin
Sharon Warnecke

