



Clinton Public Schools

October 18, 2007

TO: Parents in the Clinton School System

The news media have recently reported a few cases of Penicillin (Methicillin) Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus in students around the state. Staphylococcus Aureus is a bacteria commonly found in the nose or on the skin of healthy people. Sometimes it can cause an infection such as pimples or boils and can be treated without antibiotics. However, it can cause serious infections such as wound infections, bloodstream infections and pneumonia. In a small number of cases, the germ is resistant to common antibiotics such as penicillin, methicillin, and the keflex family. This is known as MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus).

There are no known cases in this district to date. In order to prevent this infection from occurring, we suggest the following plan:

- I. Practice Good Hygiene
 - a. Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - b. Keep cuts and scrapes clean and cover with bandages until healed.
 - c. Avoid contact with other people's wounds and bandages.
 - d. Avoid sharing any personal items such as razors, soap, drinks, athletic equipment, etc.
 - e. Use antibacterial soap when bathing and take a shower after an athletic event.

- II. Wounds or Open Cuts
 - a. Report any sores or open cuts to your doctor and have the doctor examine them.
 - b. If sores or open cuts occur during school hours, have the school nurse examine them.
 - c. Do not participate in sports if you have an infection.

If you have any questions, please call your doctor or consult with the school nurse.

Sincerely,

Albert A. Coviello
Superintendent of Schools