

**Memo to Parents regarding
MRSA
(Methicillin Resistant
Staphylococcus Aureus Bacteria)
November 14, 2007**

Recently I have noticed articles about schools in our area as well as other public places acknowledging cases of MRSA. This is a bacterial infection carried by healthy people but can be serious if it spreads inside the body.

The purpose of this memo is to raise awareness of the MRSA bacteria. It is important we take precautions. In articles I have read we are advised as school personnel and parents to wash hands, keep wounds clean and bandaged and avoid sharing personal items such as towels. Taking the appropriate precautions can help.

Signs and symptoms indicating the need for help are skin redness and swelling or a boil or red pimple-like bump (especially with red streaks running from the boil).

Specialists from Mercy Hospital in Cadillac have provided in-service training for our custodians regarding the appropriate precautions and procedures to ensure clean areas for staff members and students. They suggest that lockers in the men and women's locker rooms be cleaned out weekly, and the clothing washed. The lockers will be cleaned as well. All students and staff are asked to focus on frequent hand washing with soap and warm water. This simple intervention is the most effective way to avoid infection from these bacteria. These interventions, in addition to the routine cleaning practices being used at school, will go far in safeguarding the health of staff and students at school.

The Marion Schools Board of Education and Administration are asking all parents and community members for support in following the above mentioned procedures regarding cleanliness, and contact your building principal should you have any questions regarding this issue. MRSA information is available to you at your request by contacting any of the school or administrative offices. While we have had no reported cases of any student or community member infected with MRSA, caution and prevention are of utmost importance.

Sincerely,

Charles Chase, Superintendent
Marion Public Schools

