



Building Bridges to the Future

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www.riverview.wednet.edu

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Dear Riverview Families:

Recent local and national news coverage has focused on Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). MRSA is a type of "staph" infection that is resistant to some antibiotics and most often causes skin infections. The common signs of a skin infection include redness, warmth, swelling and tenderness. Often a MRSA infection will look like a spider bite, boil, abscess or turf burn. If left untreated, it could progress to a more serious illness. It is generally spread by skin-to-skin contact or by direct contact with the infected wound drainage.

On November 10th, the district was informed that a Cedarcrest High School student was diagnosed and treated for MRSA. The student has been cleared by their health care provider to return to school.

Our district is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy learning environment for our children. We take our guidance from Public Health, Seattle and King County, and our organizations work together to ensure health and safety.

We believe the best prevention against illness or infection is accurate information. Below you will find some information on what the district is doing to protect against MRSA and some things you can do at home.

❖ *What is the school district doing?*

- We encourage frequent hand washing to avoid the spread of germs.
- School nurses and other health staff ensure that draining wounds are covered with a dry, clean bandage.
- We routinely clean and disinfect commonly shared surfaces, such as lunch tables, counters, door handles, etc.
- We work directly with the Public Health, Seattle and King County, and take direction from the experts in this area.

❖ *What can parents do?*

- **The number one thing you can do is to encourage frequent and thorough hand washing in your family!**
- Encourage your child to shower/bathe regularly, especially after participation in sports.
- Do not allow your child to share personal items.
- Cover all wounds with a clean, dry bandage, tape on all four sides.
- Encourage your child to not touch sores or wounds of others.
- Consult with your family health care provider with any concerns.

If you have any questions, you can contact one of our district nurses by calling 425-844-4500. Additional resources will be posted on the district website at www.riverview.wednet.edu.

Sincerely,

Mr. Conrad Robertson
Superintendent