



## Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District

685 East Jack London Boulevard, Livermore, CA 94551

Tel (925) 606-3281 Fax (925) 606-3329

October 29, 2007

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have been informed that a student at Granada High School has a skin infection called Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA). Typically an affected person is no longer communicable after being on antibiotics for at least 24 hours, and then the student is cleared to return to school.

MRSA infection is a type of Staph infection that is resistant to certain antibiotics which makes it harder to treat. Staph infections, including MRSA, occur most frequently among persons in hospitals and healthcare facilities (such as nursing homes and dialysis centers) who have weakened immune systems. However, Staph or MRSA infections in the community can occur in otherwise healthy people. The symptoms are usually manifested as skin infections, such as pimples and boils. If you notice your child has a rash that is red, swollen, painful, or has pus or other drainage, please contact his/her health care provider immediately.

Here are some tips on preventing Staph infections:

- Wash your hands often or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Keep your cuts and scrapes clean and cover them with bandages.
- Do not touch other people's cuts or bandages.
- Do not share personal items like towels, soap, deodorant, or razors.
- Clean and disinfect gym and sports equipment before use.
- Wash dirty linens and towels with hot water and laundry detergent. Use a hot dryer rather than air-drying.
- Students who participate in contact sports should shower immediately after activity.

Washing your hands thoroughly with soap and water is the single most important measure that can be taken to prevent the spread of skin infections. Additionally, our custodial staff is following accepted protocols for cleaning school sites, including use of approved disinfectants.

If you have any more questions, please contact your student's school office or the District's Student Services Department at 606-3206.

For more information on MRSA, please ask your health care provider or visit <http://www.cdc.gov>.

Sincerely,

Brenda Miller, Superintendent

BM/mg