

October 30, 2007

Dear Students and Parents,

As you have seen and heard through the media, there have been cases of staph infection called Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus or MRSA being reported in our county and area. To date, one case of MRSA has been reported at Constantine Public Schools. We have already made arrangements to have additional staff from our cleaning service come to disinfect the entire affected school.

Contrary to alarmist news surrounding MRSA, we wish to provide factual information to both inform and educate everyone affiliated with our CPS families. Attached below are websites to get more information, plus this information should also be available shortly on our website at [www.constps.org](http://www.constps.org).

Here's what Constantine Public Schools are doing as preventive measures against the MRSA staph infection:

1. We already use a disinfectant formula to regularly disinfect all classrooms at least weekly.
2. All restrooms and locker rooms are disinfected daily (each evening).
3. We already supply all of our restrooms with disinfectant hand foam soap.
4. Elementary teachers typically make sure all students wash their hands or use a disinfectant hand sanitizer before eating lunch.
5. We are purchasing additional bottles of disinfectant alcohol-based hand sanitizer so every classroom in each school has an ample supply.
6. We are providing disinfectant cloths to staff so they may wipe down desks or computer keyboards as needed during the day (many teachers & educational assistants already do this).
7. We will be providing wall mounted hand sanitizers in each of our computer labs for student use.
8. We have shared Health Department information and precautions against MRSA with all staff, especially our Physical Education teachers and Athletic Department coaches.

Here are some tips from the Center for Disease Control and the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Department to help prevent the spread of MRSA:

**Wash your hands.** Use soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Experts suggest you wash your hands into a good lather and continue washing for 15 seconds.

**Cover cuts and scrapes with a clean bandage or dressing.** This will help the wound heal and also prevent you from spreading bacteria to others.

**Do not touch other people's wounds or bandages.**

**Do not share personal items like towels or razors.** Drying towels, clothes, and sheets in a dryer – rather than letting them air dry – kills bacteria.

For further information, you may contact the Health Dept. in Three Rivers at (269) 273-2161 x241 or log on to their website at [www.bhsj.org](http://www.bhsj.org).

Please follow these Health Dept. recommendations. As always, we strive to promote a safe and healthy learning environment for all students. We will continue to be vigilant with our cleaning and disinfecting processes through the school district.

Yours in Falcon Pride,

Norman L. Taylor  
Superintendent