



Harborfields Central School District

2 OLDFIELD ROAD • GREENLAWN, NEW YORK 11740-1200
(631) 754-5320 Ext. 325 • FAX (631) 261-0068

Frank J. Carasiti

Interim Superintendent of Schools

Diana Todaro

*Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction*

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Dear Parent / Guardian:

It is important for parents to be aware of the precautions that can be taken to avoid contracting the MRSA virus. As parents and educators, we strive to protect our children from such situations and to ensure their safety at all times.

This specific type of bacteria referred to as MRSA, methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus, can cause a broad range of symptoms depending on the part of the body that is infected. The infection can result in redness, swelling and tenderness at the site, and may appear to look like pimples or boils which can be painful or have a discharge.

Please be assured that we are taking precautionary measures to prevent this infection from spreading. It is generally transmitted through direct contact with an individual who is infected or carrying the organism. Precautionary procedures, as outlined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) include "hand washing or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, covering any open skin area such as abrasions or cuts with a clean dry bandage and avoidance of sharing personal items such as athletic equipment." As a precautionary measure, this evening, the athletic locker rooms will be sanitized and disinfected. Athletes will be asked to bring home their uniforms or any other practice clothing to be washed. Additionally, the staff at all Harborfields' schools has been reminded to be diligent in cleaning our facilities and reminding students to frequently wash their hands. Our student athletes are also reminded not to share clothing, towels or soap, and to exercise more extreme personal hygiene habits to help prevent this infection.

We ask that you reinforce the importance of proper hygiene to your children and remind them of the need to wash hands with soap and warm water very frequently. The following practices will also help to prevent this infection:

- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed
- Avoid contact with other people with wounds and bandages
- Avoid sharing personal items

If your child shows signs of a skin infection, immediately consult with your health care provider. Information on MRSA is available at www.health.state.ny.us or www.cdc.gov

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school nurse at your child's school at any time.

Very truly yours,

Diana Todaro

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

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