

CLIFFSIDE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Office of the Superintendent  
Cliffside Park, New Jersey 07010

Michael J. Romagnino  
Superintendent of Schools

October 2007

Dear Parents/Guardians:

There has been extensive coverage in the news recently about a bacterial infection called MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus). MRSA is not a new disease. It has been a public health concern for many years, especially in hospitals and healthcare facilities. In the past several years it has become more frequent in the community. MRSA skin infections are resistant to some antibiotics, but not all and can be successfully treated. Early diagnosis and treatment are especially important.

The Cliffside Park School District and Bergen County Department of Health Services are working closely to ensure that appropriate precautions and protocols are in place. The school district has reviewed all of its policies and procedures to ensure that proper precautions are in place. Additional measures, such as, disinfecting our buses on a daily basis, more attention to cleaning shared athletic equipment and general preventive cleaning procedures have been put in place.

There are some key facts you should remember about MRSA:

- MRSA is treatable, but can become serious if untreated
- Be alert to the signs and symptoms of MRSA and seek medical care if you think you may have the infection
- Do not share personal care items
- Wash your hands with soap and water frequently
- Cover skin infections with clean bandages and wear clothing that covers the area of infection.

Please log-on to the following websites for up to date information on MRSA:

- <http://www.bergenhealth.org>
- <http://nj.gov/health/cd/mrsa/index.shtml>
- [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar\\_mrsa.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa.html)

Sincerely,

Michael J. Romagnino