

UNIONDALE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents:

As you are probably aware, there has been significant publicity over the last few days with regard to staph (MRSA) infections and an increase in the number of cases nationwide. The purpose of this correspondence is to let you know, first, of preventative actions students can take to assist in avoiding the infection and, second, to inform you of proactive measures we are taking as a school system.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the following recommendations should help prevent skin infections:

- Practice good hygiene.
- Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.
- Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels or razors.

In addition, contact a doctor or other healthcare provider if you or your child has a skin infection that does not improve.

Since staph infections are commonly transmitted through hand contact, it's important that high contact surfaces are cleaned and disinfected to minimize the risk. As a school system, we have adopted the Johnson Diversey product Virex II 256 which delivers fast, effective cleaning and disinfecting and is effective against pathogens, such as MRSA, VRE, HIV, HCV, HBV, and TB.

We have directed our custodial staff to thoroughly clean all areas where this type of infection might spread such as lavatories, cafeteria, and locker rooms. In addition, we are requesting our physical education students and athletes to take their uniforms home daily to be washed thoroughly. We will continue to take precautionary measures and keep you informed if we experience any serious medical issues regarding staph infections or other health-related problems.

Sincerely,

William K. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
WKL:BJF