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Superintendent of Schools

St. Mary's County Public Schools

Department of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development

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August, 2013

Dear Student-Athletes and Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Recently, concerns over community-acquired methicillin-resistant staphylococcus infection (CA-MRSA) have been reported across the country. MRSA is a "staph" infection which is passed through person to person contact, and is highly resistant to antibiotics.

The best way to prevent MRSA is to practice good personal hygiene and to avoid contact with open skin lesions/cuts. Athletes should not be sharing such items as towels and soap. Uniforms and practice clothing should be washed regularly in hot water.

The National Athletic Trainers' Association has developed a position statement which is provided with this letter. Included in the statement are ten recommendations to help minimize the risk of contracting MRSA. St. Mary's County Public Schools will continue with the thorough cleaning of athletic facilities and equipment.

The prevention of CA-MRSA requires a community effort so please take the time to read and observe the recommendations provided. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (301) 475 5511, extension 122. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrew C. Roper, Ph.D.
Supervisor of Instruction for Physical Education,
Health, and Athletics

ACR/04/17/02/02

Attachment

cc: Bradley Clements
Ashley Varner
Jeff Maher
Scott Smith
Trish Wince
Athletic Directors
High School Principals
Assistant Principals, High Schools