

October 26, 2007

Dear Parents or Guardians:

As most of you are aware through recent news reports, the increasing incidents of community associated Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) is a growing concern across the country. MRSA is a bacterial staph infection, resistant to many antibiotics, which has been around for a very long time but had primarily been confined to hospitals. I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that the Comsewogue School District is aware of the situation and is following recommended procedures to ensure that we are maintaining a safe and healthy environment for your children. Currently, there have been **NO** reported cases of MRSA in the Comsewogue School District.

MRSA is spread through person-to-person contact or contact with contaminated items such as towels, razors, uniforms and athletic equipment. Poor hygiene practices help to facilitate the spread of the infection. While our custodial staff has been directed to thoroughly clean all areas, there are also interventions which can be implemented at home. We are asking that you stress to your children the importance of hand-washing and covering open cuts or wounds. A Question and Answer information sheet can be found on the Comsewogue School District web site (www.comsewogue.k12.ny.us) under School News on the home page. If you would like further information, you should feel free to go to the following web sites:

Statewide School Health Services (<http://www.schoolhealthservices.org>)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/>)
New York State Department of Health (<http://www.health.state.ny.us/>)

The purpose of this letter is not to cause you alarm but simply to assure you that we will continue to take precautionary measures and keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Shelley Saffer, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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