



VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT

September 16, 2016

Dear Valley Central Parents/Guardians:

This is to inform you that three confirmed cases and one suspected case of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infection have been reported at Valley Central High School. The affected individuals are being treated or have been treated and will not return to school or sports without medical clearance. The proper measures and precautions are being taken to fully sanitize the building and locker rooms. We are working with the Orange County Department of Health on this matter and are going above and beyond their recommendations.

Attached to this letter is information about MRSA, which came from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. This pertinent information can also be found on the CDC website for your reference. Please review this fact sheet carefully and be aware that all the necessary precautions and protocols have been followed regarding treatment for these cases and the sanitization of the building. Please speak to your child about being extra vigilant and let us know if you become aware of anything that may be concerning. Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Xanthis". The signature is written in a cursive style.

John P. Xanthis
Superintendent of Schools

/em

Attachment

MRSA FACT SHEET



What is MRSA?

MRSA is methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, a potentially dangerous type of staph bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics and may cause skin and other infections. As with all regular staph infections, recognizing the signs and receiving treatment for MRSA skin infections in the early stages reduces the chances of the infection becoming severe. MRSA is spread by:

- > Having direct contact with another person's infection
- > Sharing personal items, such as towels or razors, that have touched infected skin
- > Touching surfaces or items, such as used bandages, contaminated with MRSA

What are the signs and symptoms?

Most staph skin infections, including MRSA, appear as a bump or infected area on the skin that may be:

- > Red
- > Swollen
- > Painful
- > Warm to the touch
- > Full of pus or other drainage
- > Accompanied by a fever

What if I suspect an MRSA skin infection?

Cover the area with a bandage and contact your healthcare professional. It is especially important to contact your healthcare professional if signs and symptoms of an MRSA skin infection are accompanied by a fever.

How are MRSA skin infections treated?

Treatment for MRSA skin infections may include having a healthcare professional drain the infection and, in some cases, prescribe an antibiotic. Do not attempt to drain the infection yourself – doing so could worsen or spread it to others. If you are given an antibiotic, be sure to take all of the doses (even if the infection is getting better), unless your healthcare professional tells you to stop taking it.

How can I protect my family from MRSA skin infections?

- > Know the signs of MRSA skin infections and get treated early
- > Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered
- > Encourage good hygiene such as cleaning hands regularly
- > Discourage sharing of personal items such as towels and razors



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<http://phil.cdc.gov>

**For more information, please call
1-800-CDC-INFO or visit www.cdc.gov/MRSA.**

