

Date

Dear Parent/Guardian:

**Re: Notification of MRSA Skin Infections**

We have received reports of three or more confirmed cases of an antibiotic-resistant skin infection called Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in (*specify classroom*).

MRSA is a type of “staph” infection that is resistant to many antibiotics and frequently causes skin infections. Common signs of a skin infection include redness, warmth, swelling and tenderness. Often a MRSA infection will look like a spider bite, a bug bite, boil, abscess, impetigo or infected turf burn. If it is left untreated, it could progress into a more serious illness.

MRSA skin infections are generally spread by skin-to-skin contact or by direct contact with the infected wound drainage. They may also be spread by contact with contaminated surfaces or things such as sports equipment or personal hygiene items. MRSA skin infections are not spread through the air.

Attached is a fact sheet called “What to do about MRSA in Elementary Schools”. It includes recommendations on prevention and the reduction of transmission of MRSA. Hand washing remains the most effective method of preventing the spread of germs, including MRSA.

Please be aware of the signs and symptoms of MRSA. If you or a family member has the symptoms described above, please contact your medical provider. For more information on MRSA, contact the Region IV Office of Public Health.