



October 22, 2007

Dear Parents:

This is to inform you that The Avalon School is aware of the recent outbreak of MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus). While none of our students has contracted MRSA, we assure you that steps are being taken to minimize the likelihood of this occurring.

The School's Athletic Department is aware of this recent outbreak and has taken the following actions. The coaches and teachers have shared, and will continue to share, preventive information with Avalon students. In addition, coaches and physical education teachers are aware of the possible signs of MRSA and will contact the parents of any student showing potential symptoms. The School is also giving additional attention to the daily cleaning and disinfecting of the locker and weight rooms. These steps should greatly help in preventing any outbreaks at the School.

MRSA Facts:

- Staph bacteria are commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people.
- Staph bacteria are one of the most common causes of skin infections in the U.S.
- Most MRSA skin infections are minor (such as pimples or boils) and can be treated with antibiotics.
- If your child has a pimple, boil, or cut that does not appear to be healing, please see your healthcare provider.

Tips for Preventing MRSA:

- Wash hands thoroughly with warm water and soap or use an alcohol based sanitizer.
- Keep all cuts and scrapes clean and covered until healed.
- All athletes should report open wounds to their coach or the Athletic Director for observation and proper treatment and bandaging for games and practices.
- Avoid contact with other people's wounds and bandages.
- Avoid sharing personal equipment including jerseys and other clothing, football helmets, chinstraps, shoulder pads, shin guards, etc.

- Use disinfectant after every use to keep all personal equipment clean.
- Wash uniforms and gym clothes thoroughly. It is recommended that clothes be dried in a hot dryer as opposed to air drying.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at kevindavern@avalonschools.org . Furthermore, if your child does have a confirmed case of MRSA, please notify the Headmaster's Office immediately at 301-320-0668.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin J. Davern" with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin J. Davern
Headmaster