



**North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional  
High School District**

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*"Providing success for all students"*

**CHARLES M. SHADOW, Ph.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

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**JAMES P. CARDANEO**  
Interim School Business Administrator/  
Secretary, Board of Education

October 31, 2007

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As you may know, several schools in New Jersey have identified cases of MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) among staff and students. As of today, no staff member or student in our District has reported having MRSA. In our region, Bridgewater-Raritan High School and Delaware Valley Regional High School have reported cases of MRSA. We want to assure you that we continue to clean, disinfect and maintain our facilities daily and we are educating our staff and students about MRSA and how to stop the spread of this infection.

Our staff has been provided with information from the New Jersey Department of Health and the Hunterdon County Department of Health regarding MRSA to help educate our students. (This information is posted on the District website, [www.nhvweb.net](http://www.nhvweb.net), for your information.) Our Physical Education/Health teachers make it their priority to remind students daily of this growing health concern during their classes. The following are some other steps our staff has taken to prevent the spread of MRSA:

- Locker rooms and all hard surfaces, i.e. cafeteria tables, light switches, walls and floors, are cleaned throughout the day with disinfectant specialized for killing MRSA bacteria.
- Water fountains are sanitized hourly.
- Disinfectant bottles have been placed around the wrestling and weight rooms and all users are asked to wipe the equipment down after each use. Wrestling mats are disinfected daily.
- Athletic gear and practice uniforms are laundered on a regular basis.
- Coaches continually remind students of the dangers of MRSA and ask that they clean out their lockers weekly and wash the contents.
- "Pinnies" are no longer used in gym class. (Pinnies are colored mesh shirts worn over clothing to help divide students into teams.)
- Flyers have been posted around the schools alerting staff and students to this health concern.
- Hand sanitizers will be made available in each classroom at both high schools in the coming week.

MRSA is spread most often through skin-to-skin contact. The New Jersey Department of Health warns against sharing personal hygiene products, towels, and equipment as well as keeping cuts, nicks and wounds covered at all times as exposed areas could increase the risk of contracting MRSA. Please remind your children that good basic hygiene, especially hand washing, is paramount to preventing the spread of this staph infection.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Shaddow, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools