



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL
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Broward County, Florida

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February 3, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This is to inform you that students with suspected cases of **Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)** were reported. The District has implemented precautionary measures in cleaning of equipment, weight rooms, locker rooms including shower areas, gymnasiums and wrestling areas. Our District protocol is that anyone exhibiting the signs or symptoms, or has been diagnosed with MRSA, must have a note from their health care provider to return to work/school.

MRSA is a type of bacterial infection commonly found on the skin. It is resistant to a select group of antibiotics; however, it is treatable.

The signs and symptoms, mode of transmission and precautions are as follows:

Signs and Symptoms: MRSA skin infections may look like a pimple or boil and can be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage. Most common sites on the body where it occurs are areas covered by hair (e.g., back of neck, groin, buttock, armpit, beard).

Mode of Transmission: MRSA is not contracted through the air. It is usually transmitted by direct skin-to-skin contact or contact with shared items or surfaces that have come in contact with someone else's infection (e.g., towels, used bandages, razors).

Precautions:

1. Practice and encourage good hand washing for a minimum of fifteen (15) seconds
2. Use alcohol-based sanitizers when soap and water are not directly accessible
3. Use of proper hygiene (Do not share personal items like towels, clothing, razors)
4. Keep wounds that are draining or have pus covered with clean, dry bandages

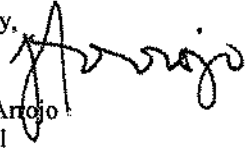
Should your child exhibit any of these signs or symptoms, we recommend that you consult your health care provider. Students must have a note from their health care provider to return to school.

Attached is a Fact Sheet on MRSA and Hand Washing guidelines.

Additional information on MRSA is also available on the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website, www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhgp/armrsacpublic. You may also contact the Florida Department of Health-Broward at (954) 467-4700.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 754-323-2400.

Sincerely,


Jimmy Arrojo
Principal