

Sample Letter to parents informing them of a MRSA outbreak

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 *(a classroom or a sports team-specify)*. Two *(or whatever number)* additional *(students, wrestlers, football players, etc.-specify)* have skin lesions, but MRSA infections have not been confirmed in these students.

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, boil, abscess or 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.

The presence of MRSA is not unique to Pierce County. Outbreaks of MRSA are occurring across the country and they have become more common within athletic settings. Attached is a fact sheet called “What to do about MRSA in Schools” *(and/or “What to do about MRSA in Athletic Settings.”)* It (they) include(s) recommendations on prevention and the reduction of transmission of MRSA.

Please be aware of the signs and symptoms of MRSA. If you or a family member has the symptoms described on the attached fact sheet(s), please contact your medical provider. For more information on MRSA, contact the Tennessee Department of Health - Communicable and Environmental Disease Services at (615) 741-7247 or visit the website at <http://health.state.tn.us/CEDS>.