

## HARRY A. GROVEMAN, Ed.D.

---

Superintendent of Schools  
SADDLE BROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
355 MAYHILL STREET  
SADDLE BROOK, NEW JERSEY 07663

Telephone 201-843-2133  
Fax 201-843-8265  
Email: HGroveman@saddlebrookschoools.org

Dear Parents/Guardians:

There has been extensive coverage in the news recently about a bacterial infection called MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus). MRSA is not a new disease. It has been a public health concern for many years, especially in hospitals and healthcare facilities. In the past several years it has become more frequent in the community. MRSA skin infections are resistant to some antibiotics, but not all and can be successfully treated. Early diagnosis and treatment are especially important.

MRSA skin infections are generally spread through contact with the bacteria, either by direct skin-to-skin contact or indirectly through shared equipment, personal articles/objects, or contaminated surfaces. Examples of shared objects include towels, bar soap, razors, clothing and athletic equipment.

A MRSA skin infection will often look like a pustule, boil, turf burn or spider bite. The area may become red, warm, swollen, painful, or contain pus or other drainage. Treatment by a healthcare provider may include drainage of the wound, a prescription for antibiotics and help in reducing the amount of bacteria on the skin.

There are some key facts you should remember about MRSA:

- MRSA is treatable, but can become serious if untreated
- Be alert to the signs and symptoms of MRSA and seek medical care if you think you may have the infection
- Do not share personal care items
- Wash your hands with soap and water frequently
- Cover skin infections with clean bandages and wear clothing that covers the area of infection

The Bergen County Department of Health Services is working closely with the community and the schools to ensure that appropriate precautions and protocols are in place. Please log-on to the following websites for up to date information on MRSA:

- <http://www.bergenhealth.org>
- <http://nj.gov/health/cd/mrsa/index.shtml>
- [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar\\_mrsa.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa.html)

The Saddle Brook School District administration, in conjunction with the custodial staff, is maintaining a clean school environment by having established cleaning procedures for frequently touched surfaces and surfaces that come into direct contact with people's skin.

With proper and frequent hand washing, covering of any open or draining skin wounds, and increased cleaning efforts in our schools, we can decrease chances of spreading any possible staph infections, including MRSA, to staff members and students.

Sincerely yours,

**Harry A. Groveman, Ed.D.**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

**Kelly Fontana, R.N.**  
**District Head Nurse**

## HARRY A. GROVEMAN, Ed.D.

---

Superintendent of Schools  
SADDLE BROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
355 MAYHILL STREET  
SADDLE BROOK, NEW JERSEY 07663

Telephone 201-843-2133  
Fax 201-843-8265  
Email: [HGroveman@saddlebrookschoools.org](mailto:HGroveman@saddlebrookschoools.org)