

August 26, 2008

To: Parents of Plainfield South High School Fall Athletes:

We learned today that one of our football players has a confirmed case of MRSA, the staph infection that received significant media attention last year.

First and foremost, please be assured that the situation is under control. The student is being appropriately treated by his doctor. He is out of school now and will return to school upon doctor's clearance. He is doing fine, and we look forward to his return.

In response to this situation, as a precautionary measure we are going to "super clean" the school Fitness Center and the stadium building that the football teams use after this evening's practice. We expect the Fitness Center to re-open tomorrow, Wednesday, August 27, 2008.

We also are asking all football players to take their clothes home and wash them. Finally, our custodial staff is going to sanitize all of the football helmets and shoulder pads. It is our understanding that there was never an open wound, and therefore it is unlikely that the virus was able to spread.

For your further information, staph infections generally start as small red bumps that resemble pimples, boils or spider bites. These can quickly turn into deep, painful abscesses.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, to prevent the transmission of staph infection, athletes should:

- Cover all wounds. Players with potentially infectious skin lesions should not practice or compete until the lesions are healed or can be covered adequately.
- Practice good hygiene, including showering and washing with soap after all practices and competitions.
- Not share towels and personal items (such as clothing or equipment).
- Report skin lesions to coaches.

Coaches will watch for suspicious wounds. When a staph infection is suspected, students should see their primary care provider for evaluation and treatment.

Please find attached information about staph infections and proper hand washing techniques. This same information is also available from on the District 202 web site (www.learningcommunity202.org) under "**Parents and Students.**" Please click on "**Staph Infection Information.**"

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We appreciate your cooperation and support.