

WEST Elizabeth
JEFFERSON Hills
Pleasant HILLS



SCHOOL DISTRICT

THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL
310 OLD CLAIRTON ROAD
JEFFERSON HILLS, PA 15025

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Dear Parents/Guardians & Students:

For your information, we have one reported case of Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) diagnosed within the high school student population. To prevent communicable disease transmission, the West Jefferson Hills School District follows the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for infectious diseases/conditions. We have been in contact with the Allegheny County Health Department to review our procedures, and we are complying with their guidelines.

MRSA is a type of *staphylococcus aureus* bacteria normally carried on the skin and nose of healthy people. Some staph bacteria are resistant to the class of antibiotics usually used to treat staph infections such as methicillin and are referred to as Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. If a diagnosis of MRSA is made, the infection is treated with a different antibiotic. This infection commonly causes boils and soft tissue infection. The symptoms may include redness, areas warm to the touch, pain, drainage, discomfort, and swelling.

Preventive measures to be mindful of include frequent hand washing, no sharing of towels or equipment, showering as soon as possible after physical activity, and washing personal items (including practice gear) on a daily basis. In the event of a skin lesion, the area should be completely covered to aid in healing and to prevent transmission of infection. Standard procedure is that any student who has been treated for MRSA and cleared to return to school, as well as any student who has been or may be referred to their family physician for MRSA screening, may attend school and activities as long as all wounds are completely covered.

We have asked our athletic trainers, physical education teachers, nurses, and coaches to reinforce good hygiene and other healthy practices to our players and students. As an additional precaution, our custodial staff has utilized a more rigorous cleaning process of our locker rooms, cafeteria, and weight and gym equipment.

We recommend that if you have concerns about your child's health, contact his or her private physician. As always, information regarding a student with a diagnosed or a suspected infectious condition should be reported to the school nurse as well as the athletic trainer.

Further information on MRSA can be obtained from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) web site (www.cdc.gov) and the Allegheny County Health Department at www.achd.net.

Sincerely,

Suzan Petersen, Principal
Thomas Jefferson High School

It is the policy of the West Jefferson Hills School District to not discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap, age, race, color, and national origin in its educational and vocational programs, activities, or employment as required by Title IX, Section 5094 and Title VI. For information regarding services, activities, programs, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons or about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Director of Human Resources at 412-655-8450 x2228.