



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Ted Strickland/Governor

Alvin D. Jackson, M.D./Director of Health

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Dear Ohio School Colleague:

As you are aware, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in the school environment has received considerable media attention in recent weeks. A number of school systems have reported outbreaks resulting in the closure of schools and/or cancellation of classes. In an effort to provide you with current information and public health recommendations, please take a moment to review the attached documents so your facility or school system can make informed and appropriate infection control decisions should you encounter similar situations.

These documents, *MRSA Guidelines for School*, *MRSA Diagnosis and Treatment for the Public*, and *MRSA Guidelines for Athletes and Coaches* are also available for download or print at the Ohio Department of Health Web site (www.odh.ohio.gov).

Another helpful resource is the MRSA Toolkit for Middle & High Schools that the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department developed. This toolkit has been designed to help prevent and stop or reduce the spread of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) skin infections in middle and high schools. It contains educational materials targeted to the school health team, athletic directors/coaches, custodians, athletes/students and parents. It is available at: <http://www.tpchd.org/page.php?id=364>

Please contact your local public health jurisdiction or the Ohio Department of Health at (614) 466-0265 for further information.

Sincerely,

Alvin D. Jackson, M.D.
Director of Health
Ohio Department of Health

Susan T. Zelman, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Ohio Department of Education