

ARTHUR P. SCHALICK HIGH SCHOOL

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Home of the Cougars

Angela Williams
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Michael Clarke
Athletic Director, ext 4119

October 16, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: Notification of MRSA Skin Infection

It has been brought to our attention that a student athlete has a confirmed case of a skin infection called Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

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 school is taking all necessary precautions to clean and disinfect surfaces and equipment.

Attached is a brochure from the New Jersey Department of Health called "MRSA - Preventing Skin Infections in School and Athletic Settings." It includes recommendations on prevention and the reduction of transmission of MRSA.

Our intent with this notification is to make you aware of the signs and symptoms of MRSA. If you or a family member has the symptoms described above, please contact your medical provider.

For more information on MRSA, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website:
<http://www.cdc.gov/mrsa/>

Please know that Arthur P. Schalick High School is following proper protocols to keep the school environment as safe as possible for all students and staff. Our students' safety is our top priority.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Yvette DuBois Trembley
Principal

Mr. Michael Clarke
Director of Athletics