

WORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT 127

DISTRICT OFFICE

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Dear Parents:

Last week I wrote to you about a health topic that is receiving regular coverage in the news. You may watch television or turn on the radio and hear stories about the presence of Community-Associated Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) cases in schools. Recently, the national news presented a more balanced perspective on MRSA with the intent of keeping the public accurately informed. In the news information that aired on Wednesday night, it was mentioned that only in the rarest of cases is MRSA life-threatening. MRSA has been present in the environment for years but the attention that it is receiving has seemed to not only elevate our awareness but also our anxiety levels as well. We all want our children to be healthy and safe and so it is a natural reaction to worry when each new MRSA story appears.

I feel it is important to keep our community informed and well-educated about matters that affect it. It is also important that you receive accurate, factual information directly from the schools.

We have received credible information that a student in our district has been diagnosed with MRSA. The student attends Worth Elementary School. The student's family physician and other medical authorities have been notified and are treating the student. The student is not currently attending school and will return only when a medical release is issued.

We are guided by government health agencies in ways to help our communities understand MRSA and the precautions that we can take to maintain good health. We will continue to remind our students about good hygiene. The healthy habits that they practice will help them out all year especially when flu season reaches its height in the winter months. We monitor those cases also and report their frequency to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

It is safe for our students to attend school and they do not have any additional risk from this reported case. As I mentioned to you in my last letter, you are most often a child's first defense against illness. Please watch out for any of the symptoms that I described in the previous letter, and contact your doctor if you have a concern or a question. If you do not have a copy of the previous letter, you can get obtain one in the main office of your school. We have provided additional MRSA information on the back of this letter.

We will continue to work hard to keep our children healthy and safe. If there is some other way in which I can be of assistance to you in this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rita Wojtylewski
Superintendent
Worth School District 127