



BAYONNE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Medical Department

669 Avenue A
Bayonne, New Jersey 07002
Phone 201-858-5820
Fax 201-858-5924

George J. Mellendick, M.D.
Chief Medical Inspector

November, 2007

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you probably know, there has been increasing coverage in the papers and on television about a certain type of bacterial infection called MRSA. This infection is resistant to certain antibiotics but can be treated. In addition, exposure to this infection can be prevented. We have attached a MRSA Fact Sheet in the form of Frequently Asked Questions, from the NJ Department of Health, so that you can be better informed.

We want to assure you that we are being proactive in our approach to minimize risk to our children at school.

As you may know, we have nurses in each school, as well as physicians on staff, who maintain a comprehensive medical program for students and staff.

The Bayonne Board of Education has policies in place to exclude anyone with an undiagnosed rash, open cut or wound. These policies are strictly enforced.

In addition, the Maintenance Department provides a regular cleaning schedule including disinfection and performs additional services as needed and requested.

Our Physical Education Department has also been instructed to disinfect equipment after use.

In short, we are prepared. We want you to be as well. MRSA infection is in many communities and is spread by direct contact with active disease. Good hygiene – especially frequent and thorough hand washing – is essential. We are placing hand sanitizers (non-alcohol) at cafeteria entrances to encourage hand washing.

Working together, we can all help to keep our children well.

Yours truly,

Patricia L. McGeehan, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

George J. Mellendick, M.D.,
Chief Medical Inspector