

October 22, 2007

Dear Parents:

I have had some concerns about MRSA. MRSA is a type of staph bacteria called Staphylococcus aureus. This is a bacteria that is normally found on all of our skin. The problem arises when this bacteria becomes resistant to antibiotics.

Breckenridge High School has had one confirmed case of MRSA and the student was not in school while contagious. With HIPPA laws in place, physician's offices cannot disclose that information; we only know about health issues that parents report to us when calling their student in sick.

As a precautionary measure, the custodians are bleaching and disinfecting the bathrooms and the doorknobs of each classroom. In talking to the Mid-Michigan District Health Department this is most appropriate way to prevent the spread of disease in a school setting. The best way for individuals to prevent the spread of any disease is to wash your hands after you have touched "high use" objects in common areas such as doorknobs. Please encourage your students to wash their hands several times a day. Furthermore, the cleaning supplies that the school district uses combat staph infections among other things.

I am attaching an informational sheet from the Mid-Michigan District Health Department with links to information on MRSA. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Middle School/High School Office.

Sincerely,

Sheila Pilmore, Principal