

Longwood Central School District

MRSA UPDATE – November 2, 2007

- 1) Longwood has not had any new cases of MRSA since the two that were originally reported early last week.
- 2) The Commissioner of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services has distributed a letter to parents that is accessible on the district website. In it, he outlines some basic information about MRSA and its prevention.
- 3) The Suffolk County Department of Health Services has established a telephone hotline (631-853-3055) that is available from 8:30 AM until 5:00 PM weekdays for questions regarding MRSA.
- 4) Every health expert identifies hand washing as the single most important factor in preventing the spread of MRSA.
- 5) Those experts emphasize that hand washing with soap and water is more than adequate protection against the spread of MRSA. They maintain that the use of hand sanitizers is not necessary unless soap and water are not available.
- 6) While not prohibiting their use, the district discourages the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers and wipes among young children. These products have a high alcohol content and should be used only under careful adult supervision.
- 7) MRSA has been reported in hospital settings for over 40 years and in community settings for a decade. This is not a recent outbreak that has occurred in the last two weeks; rather, there is heightened awareness to the bacteria that has been in the community setting for several years.
- 8) The district will continue with vigilance in cleaning our buildings following green cleaning guidelines.
- 9) Coaches and physical education teachers are reminding students to take practice clothes and uniforms home frequently to be washed.
- 10) What have we learned?
 - MRSA is nothing new.
 - Far from a super bug, it is treatable and preventable.
 - Mom was right. Wash your hands!