

October 18, 2007

To Parents, Students and Athletes:

You may be aware that some school districts in our area have experienced cases of MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus), particularly among athletes. MRSA is a drug-resistant form of the staphylococcus bacterium that, when contracted, usually causes mild, superficial skin infections that produce boils or lesions. Bacteria are transmitted by direct physical contact with contaminated materials such as towels, sheets, clothes and sports equipment, in addition to direct contact with infected persons. On rare occasions, the bacteria get into the bloodstream and deep wounds, causing more severe illness.

As of this date, there have been NO reported cases of MRSA among Redbank Valley athletes or students. The district has established cleaning procedures for athletic locker rooms and guidelines for parents, athletes, coaches and trainers to follow to reduce the risk of infection among our students and athletes.

We are aware of some rumored cases of MRSA among teams that compete against Redbank Valley. These schools are following procedures to minimize transmission of MRSA from one athlete to another or from the environment to an athlete during and immediately after competition. Other teams follow the same guidelines and procedures that we do.

Attached you will find guidelines and procedures that will help to reduce the risk of infection among our athletes. Please assist us in enforcing these guidelines and procedures with your student or athlete.

Please contact the Athletic Office at 814-275-2424 if you have any questions.