

Ida Public Schools
3145 Prairie Street
Ida, Michigan 48140

October 29, 2007

Dear Parents:

You may have seen the recent news reports about the Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). This staph infection resists antibiotics and is usually found in hospitals or nursing homes. According to the Michigan Department of Community Health, the symptoms of this infection usually begin with “pimple-like” bumps, boils, rash, fever, and a headache, but the infection can quickly spread to other parts of the body. MRSA usually spreads from person to person through hands or close, skin-to-skin contact. The bacteria can live on the skin and survive on some surfaces for prolonged periods. You can protect yourself from MRSA and other infections by practicing good hygiene.

Protect yourself from MRSA infection by following the “universal precautions” that are used to prevent the common cold, such as keeping hands and skin clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or an alcohol based hand sanitizer, keeping wounds clean and bandaged, cleaning and disinfecting highly touched surfaces, and not sharing personal items. The Ida Public School District recognizes the importance of maintaining a safe and healthy school environment and has taken steps to control the spread of MRSA and other communicable diseases.

The staff of each of our school buildings has taken the initiative, to discuss, with students at all grade levels, the importance of personal hygiene as a deterrent to the spread of bacteria and infection. Additionally, the custodial staff sanitized all critical areas of each building on Saturday, October 27th and additional sanitization will take place on Thursday, November 1, 2007 when no students are in attendance.

Following the “universal precautions” is the best way to fight the spread communicable diseases in our schools and homes. If your child does develop an unusual sore, please take him or her to the doctor and report it the school immediately.

Additional information regarding the spread, treatment, and prevention of MRSA can be found on the Michigan Department of Community Health website at www.michigan.gov/mdch .

Sincerely,

Marv Dick, Superintendent
Ida Public Schools

