

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As many of you have read in newspapers or heard on news reports, there have been occurrences of staph infections at colleges and high schools throughout the country. The staph infection known as Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (sometimes referred to as ***Superbug***) has come to light recently at schools in New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Virginia and West Virginia. The significant concern regarding this specific infection is that it is resistant to penicillin as well as other antibiotics within the “penicillin family”

Please be aware that there have been no cases of MRSA (***Superbug***) at Bergen Catholic High School. However, the school has enacted a number of preventative measures to help ensure the health and safety of all members of our community:

- The fitness room (including all weight lifting equipment) and locker rooms have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- All bathrooms, water fountains and doorknobs have been cleaned and disinfected.
- Every desktop in each room (including the library) will be disinfected before the week is over.
- The cafeteria tables and floor will continue to be cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis.

Please impress upon your sons that they should not be sharing clothing, athletic equipment or personal products with others. They should also be utilizing their locker(s) at all times and not leaving items on the floor. Additionally, their athletic clothing must be washed on a regular basis.

One of the best preventative measures that all of us can utilize is the washing of our hands frequently throughout the day. Additionally, please ensure that any cuts that your sons might have are covered with a bandage.

We are currently implementing strategies for the regular disinfecting of key areas of the school facility. Our school has not been disrupted by this issue and it is my hope that if everyone exhibits responsible behaviors it will not become a concern.

Sincerely,

Mr. Timothy J. McElhinney
Principal