

November 8, 2007

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Massachusetts Department of Education working in conjunction with the state's Director of the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control has requested that all school districts across the state send home a "Frequently Asked Questions" informational guide for parents and students about Methicillin – resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). As you are aware, there have been a number of reported outbreaks of this bacterium in recent months. Thankfully, Hanover Public Schools has no reported outbreaks of MRSA. However, being proactive in providing information to parents and students about what they need to know and do in order to minimize the chances for MRSA infections to occur is an important component of preventative medicine. After reviewing this Q & A sheet, should you have any further questions, please consult your physician, local health department, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's website at www.mass.gov/dph and/or the Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at 617-983-6800.

Sincerely,

Kristine E. Nash, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools