

[DATE]

[ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP]

[PHONE NUMBER]

Dear Parent/Guardian:

A suspected [CASE OR OUTBREAK] of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA, “staph”) has been reported at [NAME OF SCHOOL].

*“Staph”* is a type of bacteria on the skin or in the nose of healthy people. It can cause skin infections that look like pimples, boils, or insect bites, and can often be treated without antibiotics. However, it can also cause serious infections that require antibiotics. MRSA is resistant to medicine used to cure it which can make it difficult to treat.

Unless told by a doctor, students with MRSA will not be excluded from school. Exclusion from sports activities will be for those with wound drainage that cannot be covered with a clean, dry bandage or for those who cannot maintain good hygiene. **Spread of staph bacteria can be prevented by hand washing and by not sharing personal items.**

Please read the Fact Sheet attached. If you have any questions, please call the Bay County Health Department at 989-895-4003.

Sincerely,

NAME, TITLE