



Increased media coverage of antibiotic-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (including methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* [MRSA]), has prompted questions from the public about how our schools take measures to prevent the spread of such infections. We'd like to take this opportunity to let parents know the following:

The AISD's custodial department works to thoroughly clean all buildings daily and is especially vigilant in working with our coaches to pay special attention to athletic areas, using several types of disinfectants and detergents known to stop the spread of staph bacteria.

According to information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, staph skin infections are usually easy to treat with inexpensive, well-tolerated antibiotics, though some strains have become resistant. Our nursing staff works closely with Tarrant County Public Health and also communicates with the cleaning staff at each campus. The health department asks for cases to be reported if they reach several in number at any one location.

Since the beginning of the school year we have had isolated reports of documented infections: two at Arlington HS earlier in the year – all athletes – and one each at South Davis and Butler elementaries this week.

Our coaches work well to communicate with our student-athletes about proper procedures to prevent the spread of staph infections. We also ask the help of our community by encouraging vigilant hand-washing, personal care and cleanliness, along with the covering of any break in the skin. Please alert your school and your physician if your child develops a suspicious skin irritation, and please keep in mind that students with confirmed staph infections may attend school if released by their physicians.

We are a large district of 74 campuses and more than 63,000 students, so the incidence of staph infections is not considered high in number or on the rise – this is actually a very common problem that school districts deal with annually. However, we will continue preventative measures and will work with staff, students and parents to communicate any concerns.