



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL CENTER

October 18, 2007

Dear Provider;

I am sure you have been hearing the news reports regarding cases a bacterial infection of the skin that is resistant to the more commonly used antibiotics. The infection is called methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* or MRSA. It has been identified in several school systems in the Metropolitan Washington area including Montgomery County.

Staphylococcus aureus (Staph) is commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people with no signs of infection. Some staph that have become resistant to the most commonly used antibiotics are called MRSA.

MRSA is most often seen in people who have been in hospitals, nursing homes, or dialysis centers. Community-associated MRSA, which is the illness that is currently identified in several schools, occurs in individuals who **have not** recently been hospitalized or had a medical procedure. Community-associated MRSA most often shows itself as skin infections such as boils and pimples.

Practicing good hygiene and sanitation as outlined on the enclosed sheet, Maryland regulations and in your Teddy Bear Book will help prevent the spread of MRSA. More information is available at www.cdc.gov, click on diseases and conditions, click on M for MRSA. Please call Nancy Curtis, Child Care Health Consultant at 240-777-3128 if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Nancy Curtis RN, BS, CCHC

Department of Health and Human Services · Early Childhood Services

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