



September 9, 2008

Dear Parents of Comal ISD Athletes,

We are off to a super start in all of our athletic programs this year! Thank you for your continued support of your athletes and our programs.

The beginning of the school year also means we have to be diligent in reminding our families that this is the time of year when infectious diseases, such as staph infections (MRSA), start appearing in schools across the country.

Comal ISD is committed to the safety of all our students. Our staff teaches the importance of personal hygiene as a preventative measure in the spread of infectious diseases. Our students learn from their teachers, their nurses, and their coaches — just how important it is to wash their hands, not share personal items, and keep their clothes and related equipment clean.

Your reinforcement and encouragement at home are critical, however, to keeping diseases like staph infections to a minimum. It is important to identify the first symptoms of staph and seek immediate medical attention.

Staph is a commonly occurring bacteria found on the skin and in the noses of all people. Most staph species never cause infection. When they do cause infections, they may cause minor skin or soft tissue infections such as boils or impetigo. Persons with staph skin infections may complain of “an infected pimple,” “an insect bite,” “a spider bite,” or “a sore.” They cause minor redness and swelling without pain. Staph infections left untreated can cause abscesses, pneumonia, and soft tissue and bloodstream infections.

Our schools are cleaned by individuals who are trained in the proper technique and application of safe sanitation products. Public areas and classrooms are cleaned regularly to ensure a safe health environment, not just for our students and staff, but for the public that visits our campuses and facilities.

Comal ISD takes student safety seriously. With your help at home and with the proper education and procedures in place, our schools will remain healthy environments for our children. Parents are encouraged to contact their individual campus or school nurse if any concerns arise.

An additional resource for information can be found on the Texas Department of State Health Services' website at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/staphylococcal/>.