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Dear parents, students, and members of our community,

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) has not had any confirmed cases reported of Staphylococcus aureus, often referred to simply as "staph," or methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), but we would like to share ways to help students reduce their risk of contracting the infection.

Recent news coverage regarding staph infections, particularly MRSA and its potentially harmful results, reminds us of the importance of good hygiene practices, like proper hand washing.

More information on MRSA is available by visiting the Centers for Disease Control Web site at [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar\\_mrsa.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa.html). And, as we enter flu season, proper hand-washing is more important than ever.

PGCPS is providing fact sheets in English and Spanish. For further information or questions, contact the public health nurse in your school. To confirm staph or MRSA, a physician needs to take a tissue sample to be cultured. The same procedure is done to determine if someone is an MRSA carrier.

Cordially,

John E. Deasy  
Chief Executive Officer