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TO: Atlantic County Superintendents, Principals and School Nurses

FROM: Patricia Diamond, Atlantic County Health Officer

Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in Schools: Prevention and Control Recommendations

Recent media reports across the country are bringing about a heightened awareness of a skin infection called MRSA (Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*). Attached is an important guidance document issued by the New Jersey Dept. of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) that addresses common questions related to MRSA, including in the school setting.

To limit the spread of MRSA infections in the school settings, NJDHSS and the Atlantic County Division of Public Health are requesting that school administrators review their institutional infection control policies and if indicated, incorporate the state recommendations contained in the following documents

- ♦ MRSA Guidance Document – 10/23/2007 (NJDHSS)
- ♦ Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in Schools: Prevention and Control Recommendations—NJDHSS (originally distributed by Atlantic County Health in '06 and '07).
- ♦ MRSA Preventing Skin Infections in School and Athletic Settings (Brochure)

New Jersey statute requires institutions, including schools, to report outbreaks of MRSA and other unusual disease occurrences (i.e. flu, GI illnesses) to the local health department. Sporadic cases of MRSA infection are not reportable.

To report unusual incidents of skin infections or for further assistance please contact our County Epidemiologist, Eric Adler, MPH at (609) 645-7700 ext. 4258.