[Date Here]

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

This letter is to inform you that an individual was recently diagnosed with MRSA. MRSA causes skin infections which appear as swelling, warmth, redness, pain, pus or drainage, and fever, however symptoms depend on the part of the body that is infected. Some MRSA skin infections can have a fairly typical appearance and can be confused with a spider bite. In some cases, it causes pneumonia (lung infection) and other infections. If left untreated, MRSA infections can become severe and cause sepsis—the body’s extreme response to an infection. MRSA is a type of bacteria that is resistant to several antibiotics. MRSA is usually spread in the community by contact with infected people or things that are carrying the bacteria. This includes through contact with a contaminated wound or by sharing personal items, such as towels or razors, that have touched infected skin.

Steps to reduce your risk of MRSA infection include washing hands with soap and water and body regularly, especially after exercise, or using an alcohol-based hand rub, especially after changing a bandage; covering wounds with clean, dry bandages until healed; and avoiding personal item sharing such as towels, washcloths, razors, and clothing, including uniforms.

If your child or anyone in your household currently has symptoms that look like MRSA:

* Contact your regular health care provider to discuss symptoms.
* Contact the school nurse to report the diagnosis.

**Individuals must have a note from a health care provider stating they are non-communicable in order to return to school.**

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact the school nurse at: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) at (312) 746-6015.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Principal] [School Nurse]