



Independent School District

September 19, 2007

Dear Parents of GHS Football Players,

A small number of athletes at Grapevine High School appear to have recently contracted skin infections believed to be Staphylococcal (Staph) skin infections. Staph infections are commonly associated with diseases of the skin, bones and joints, pneumonia and endocarditis. As of this afternoon, we have received five reports of possible infection.

The athletic staff at Grapevine High School is working daily to remind students to exercise proper hygiene. Most skin infections are mild, but they are typically very contagious and easily spread. Therefore, it is important that any infected persons and environments are properly treated. As a proactive measure, our Facilities Services crews will extensively clean and disinfect the GHS Field House locker rooms, and our trainers will continue to thoroughly clean athletic equipment.

We also are asking for your help in eliminating this infection. Below is information about Staph infections that we hope will answer questions and identify actions we can all take to reduce risk of infection.

What is staphylococcus aureus (staph)? Staph is a bacteria commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people. This is one of the most common causes of skin infections. Most of these skin infections are minor; however, staph can cause serious infections if untreated.

What does a Staph infection look like? It may look like a pimple or boil, and can also form around an open wound. The skin around the site can be red, swollen, painful, and have pus or other drainage. Staph is often misdiagnosed as a spider bite. These infections often begin as an injury to the skin.

How is Staph spread? Staph lives on the skin and can survive on objects for 24 hours or longer. The cleanest person can get Staph infection. These skin infections are found in places where there are crowds of people, and is transmitted through skin-to-skin contact or through shared objects such as towels, benches and athletic equipment. Anything that touches the skin of someone with a Staph infection can carry the bacteria to the skin of another person.

How can I prevent the spread of the infection? Wash your hands with soap and water. Keep cuts and scrapes clean with soap and water, and cover open wounds with an appropriate dressing. Avoid sharing personal items such as towels, clothes and personal athletic equipment (pads, helmets, shoes, etc.) and wash practice clothing regularly.

What should I do if I think my student has a skin infection? Consult your doctor or health care provider. Early treatment can help prevent the infection from getting worse.

If my student has been diagnosed with a Staph skin infection, what should I do to prevent the spread of infection? Keep the infected area covered with clean, dry bandages. Wash hands frequently with soap and water, especially after changing bandages, and wash clothes or soiled items with hot water and bleach when possible.



Grapevine High School
3223 Mustang Drive
Grapevine, TX 76051

817/251-5210
FAX 817/481-5957

Jerry Hollingsworth, Ed.D.
Principal

Lorimer Arendse
Associate Principal

Teri Carter, Ed.D.
Assistant Principal

Catherine Henry
Assistant Principal

Bill McClesky
Assistant Principal

Rob Whatley
Assistant Principal

Renee Love
Counselor

Warren Marks
Counselor

Libby Turner
Counselor

Allen Wrage
Counselor

Alonda Wrage
Counselor

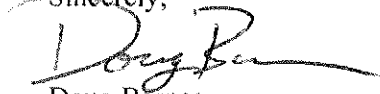
Beth Walkup
Intervention Counselor

To Strive, To Seek, To Find and Not To Yield

Should I notify the school if my student has been diagnosed with Staph? Yes, please contact the school nurse and/or athletic trainer.

It's important to remember that while most skin infections are not serious, they can become more serious without proper treatment. If your student has any of the above symptoms, please take him/her to a physician for treatment. It will take students, parents and staff to eliminate this infection and we will partner with you in any way that we can to protect your children. Through our combined efforts, we hope to stop any potential spread of this infection.

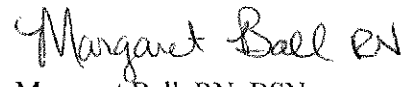
Sincerely,



Doug Barnes
GHS Athletic Trainer



Robert Carlson
GHS Athletic Trainer



Margaret Ball, RN, BSN
GHS School Nurse