

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From the Office of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association

Robbinsville, NJ

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News Release/Press Release

[The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association \(NJSIAA\)](#) today issued an immediate set of recommendations to high school administrators in an effort to address the emergent threat of MRSA, Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus, which in the past week has gained nationwide attention.

Steven J. Timko, Executive Director of NJSIAA, states, “NJSIAA in consultation with medical professionals and healthcare providers for the past year have anticipated the need for getting the following message out. The following are basic steps that high school administrators can take to alleviate or lessen the risk of contracting the MRSA infection.”

- Conduct immediate assessment of their physical plant to determine if there is adequate number of hand washing stations available/present. Also, in this assessment, determine if sufficient supply of material(s) for hand washing is immediately consumable.
- Immediate in-service of athletes to review recommended frequency and methodology of proper hand washing techniques.
- Institute a system of tracking/measuring the consumables to assess compliance with the guidelines for hand hygiene.
- Stress the importance that student athletes not share any sports equipment, personal items, especially towels, razors, water bottles and the like. Equipment should be cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis. Gym bags and lockers should be ventilated, cleaned, and sanitized also.
- Cover any and all cuts, scrapes, abrasions and lesions with a secure bandage until healed.
- Do not take any rash, abrasion, “rug burn”, or any open wound casually. Insist that all skin conditions be reported to the athletic trainer and/or the school nurse.

NJSIAA, in collaboration with [St. Andrew Development, Inc.](#) a national health educational and learning technology company, is continuing to develop a web and school athletic training-based intervention module, specifically addressing the MRSA issue from a student athlete, athletic trainer and coach perspective. The program is called the Student Athlete Wellness Portal and is expected to be available in Fall 2007.

For further information contact Larry White, NJSIAA Assistant Director.