

Jan Irons Harris, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Like you, we, in Cullman City Schools, are concerned about the recent reportings of student staph infections communicated in the daily news. At this time, no findings of staph infection have been reported to my office. However, we are proactively seeking ways in which we can reduce the chances of such occurrences for our students and employees. We have received guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), State Department of Education, Cullman County Health Department and our local hospitals. This information is being shared with all school system employees.

The following guidelines are recommended to prevent the occurrence of staph in the school setting:

- Encourage good hygiene. Keep hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or by using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Use the 15 second rule while washing hands; this is just enough time to sing the alphabet song.
- Shower and wash with soap after all practices and competitions.
- Students should avoid sharing personal items such as towels, razors, clothing and skin care products such as make-up, balms or moisturizers.
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.
- Wash hands immediately after changing a bandage.
- Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.
- Seek medical attention if a wound does not heal properly or appears to be infected.
- Notify the school nurse as soon as possible if your student has been diagnosed with a staph infection or if you suspect such an infection. Confidentiality will be maintained.

We will continue to reinforce the importance of hand washing with soap and water as the primary method of prevention. Alcohol-based sanitizers are available to students and employees.

We will provide further information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jan Harris'.

Dr. Jan Harris  
Superintendent