



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor  
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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Local Health Departments and Regional Offices of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Hospital Infection Control Practitioners, Hospital Emergency Departments and Infectious Disease Physicians

**FROM:** Kathleen Kelly-Shannon, Acting Chief  
Joan M. Bestudik, Education Coordinator  
Communicable Disease Control Section

**DATE:** June 7, 2007

**SUBJECT:** **Community-Associated Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus***

Due to continuing nationwide media coverage about the occurrence of community-associated methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (CA-MRSA), the Illinois Department of Public Health wishes to reiterate our desire to work with our public health partners in efforts to prevent CA-MRSA as follows:

- IDPH provides epidemiologic and laboratory support for investigations of clusters of CA-MRSA cases in settings such as schools, colleges, and correctional facilities
- IDPH provides clinical guidance for primary care providers regarding evaluation and management of MRSA skin and soft tissue infections via the IDPH website:  
[http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/infect/MRSA\\_Provider.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/infect/MRSA_Provider.htm).
- IDPH provides information to specific groups about the importance of good hygiene and other practices in the control of community-based MRSA via the IDPH website:  
General public: <http://www.idph.state.il.us/public/hb/hbmrsa.htm> ,  
Schools: <http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/infect/schoolstaphrecs.htm> ,  
<http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/infect/hygiene.htm> .
- IDPH provides information on the IDPH intranet for presentations on CA-MRSA to medical and non-medical community groups.
- IDPH has proposed communicable disease regulations that require reporting of all CA-MRSA clusters. Additional CA-MRSA surveillance activities aimed at defining the spectrum of CA-MRSA associated illness and trends in CA-MRSA in Illinois are currently under consideration.

Questions about CA-MRSA may be should be referred to your local health department or the IDPH Communicable Disease Control Section (217) 782-2016.

***Improving public health. One community at a time.***

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