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STATE SCHOOLS CHIEF JACK O'CONNELL, SCHOOL AND HEALTH OFFICIALS DISCUSS STAPH PREVENTION IN SCHOOLS

SACRAMENTO – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell joined Burlingame School District Superintendent Sonny Da Marto, as well as health officials from the City of San Francisco and the County of San Mateo, at Burlingame Intermediate School to discuss the recent incidents of staph infections, especially on methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), that are being reported in schools and communities nationwide. O'Connell spoke at length on preventative measures that parents and school officials can take to keep children safe.

“We feel it is important to provide information, dispel fears, answer questions, and most importantly, let students, parents, and school personnel know that there are simple precautions they can take to prevent incidents of MRSA,” O'Connell said. “Although we're not overly concerned about an outbreak of staph, it is always sensible to understand its signs, symptoms, and take all necessary precautions.”

O'Connell also recommended that students, parents, teachers, and school staff take time to examine two documents supplied by the California Department of Public Health: One answers many of the questions that are being asked about staph. The other is a brochure written for parents in English and Spanish.

1. Skin Infections and MRSA Information for California Schools

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/discond/Documents/07MRSAschool.pdf>

2. A Parent's Guide to MRSA in California (English and Spanish)

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/discond/Documents/MRSAParentsGuide.pdf>

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/discond/Documents/SpanishMRSAParentsGuide.pdf>

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