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(For immediate release)

NEWS RELEASE

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RESIDENTS INVITED TO MRSA COMMUNITY FORUM

LANCASTER, Ohio (January 10, 2008) – With the recent media attention focused on MRSA (methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus), a type of staph infection, experts from Fairfield Medical Center and the Fairfield Department of Health are pleased to present a community forum regarding this drug-resistant infection. The MRSA Community Forum will take place on Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the Assembly Rooms at Fairfield Medical Center. Parents of students in school—in particular, are encouraged to attend to learn about what they can do to prevent and treat communicable diseases like MRSA.

Presenters include Dr. Andrew Murry, Infectious Disease Physician at Fairfield Medical Center and Fairfield Department of Health Board Member, Jeff Bevan, Certified Nurse Practitioner and Coordinator of Infection Prevention Associates at Fairfield Medical Center, Diana Stover, R.N., Communicable Disease Nurse at the Fairfield Department of Health, and Kevin Barlow, R.N., Epidemiologist at the Fairfield Department of Health.

Staph is a bacteria that is normally found on the skin of humans, but in some cases it becomes resistant to certain antibiotics. Resistant staph, or MRSA, typically causes skin infections which appear as a possible spider bite. The skin infection will sometimes be a warm, red area that is tender (or painful) to the touch. Sometimes the infection can progress into an abscess. Although MRSA can be found virtually anywhere and is contagious, it seems to be more common in areas where people spend a lot of time together. It can also be linked to gymnasiums and at times, day care facilities or schools – especially when proper hygiene is not followed, and open infections are not kept covered.

All interested community members are encouraged to attend. Because light refreshments will be served, Fairfield Medical Center requests that you register for the event by calling (740) 687-8007.

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