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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: ^{for} Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **NOVEMBER 2 - UPDATE ON MRSA: LAUNDRY**

On February 11, 2003, your Board asked the Department of Health Services (DHS) to provide regular updates on methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in the County Jail. In response to our update on November 2, 2005, which read, in part, that inmates were not receiving sufficient changes of garments due to "the lack of resources allocated to the laundry," on November 30, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich directed DHS and the Sheriff's Department to review resources for inmate laundry and to ensure that inmates receive their full allotment of laundry according to the MRSA guidelines.

Staff from DHS contacted the Sheriff's Department and were told that the Sheriff's Department is preparing a response to this request. We have offered our assistance to the Sheriff's Department should it be required to complete the report and we will continue to work with the Sheriff's Department at the bi-monthly MRSA Task Force meetings and on an ad hoc basis.

If you have any questions or need more information, please let either of us know.

TLG:JEF:EB:sc
304:003 REF: 3269 (A064LM2005)

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Sheriff

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