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**Hydro Systems ICS Series of Mobile Cleaning Units  
Provide the Proper Defense in the Battle Against MRSA**  
*Rash of football-related outbreaks increase need for added vigilance*

**CINCINNATI, OH** — The equipment's been handed out. The plays have been perfected. The band's in tune. Cries of "Are you ready for some football?" ring out as America's favorite fall pastime kicks off another season. But if the proper sanitary and hygienic precautions haven't been taken, the nation's football players may soon be singing a different tune: "Are you ready for some MRSA?"

Since the dawn of the millennium, the reported instances of Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) have risen sharply, to the point that some in the medical community are using the word "epidemic" to describe the increase. In fact, the results of a recent study conducted at the University of California, San Francisco—with the findings reported in the July 28, 2008, edition of the *Archives of Internal Medicine*—showed that patient visits for skin and soft-tissue infections from 1997 to 2005 rose from 8.6 million nationwide to 14.2 million, and of that 14.2 million, the number of visits for abscesses or cellulitis, the classic signs of a MRSA infection, totaled 9.6 million, up from 4.6 million in 1997.

*Staphylococcus aureus* is a common bacterium that often resides on the skin and in the nose. While most staph infections are minor and can be easily treated, they can cause an infection when entering an open wound on the body, such as a cut or scrape. Instead of spreading across the body, staph infections tend to penetrate deeply into the body and, if not treated properly, can attack vital organs, sometimes leading to death. The virulent MRSA strain of staph infection is immune to antibiotics like Methicillin, while serious infections caused by MRSA often appear as pneumonia, infection of the blood or pus-draining wounds. These conditions can cause fever, elevated white blood cell counts and tissue destruction.

MRSA can be spread in variety of ways, including through open cuts and scratches, the sharing of personal-hygiene products like soap and on equipment that hasn't been properly cleaned or disinfected. This puts the football culture directly in MRSA's sweet spot with its violent, sometimes bloody, collisions and large groups of players dressing and showering in tight locker-room quarters. In fact, since 2003 there have been several high-profile MRSA outbreaks reported in the NFL (St. Louis Rams and Miami Dolphins) and NCAA (University of Southern California), while every season dozens of high-school football programs are affected.

At its simplest, battling MRSA is as easy as practicing good personal hygiene, but when large groups of athletes spend two or three hours crashing into each other and then deposit soiled uniforms and equipment in a heap before partaking in communal bathing, it's easy to see how the facility manager can feel up against it. In addition the new generation of synthetic playing surfaces can also harbor the blood and perspiration that can be transferred from one player to another during the course of a game or practice.

The answer in this situation is a cleaning tool—when coupled with the appropriate cleaning chemicals—that not only eliminates the bacteria that can lead to MRSA outbreaks, but does it in a fast, efficient, economical and environmentally friendly way.

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Hydro Systems Co., the leading independent manufacturer of proportioning, dosing and dispensing systems for concentrated chemicals, and an industry leader in automatic/touch-free cleaning systems for daily cleaning applications, has addressed all of these concerns with the introduction of the ICS Series of mobile integrated cleaning units that provide a best-in-class solution for touch-free restroom and locker-room cleaning.

The ICS Series—which now includes the 8880, 8900 and 8950—provides battery-powered, self-contained portable-cleaning solutions that use correctly dosed cleaning chemicals applied by spray nozzle using low-flow/low-pressure technology, enabling the chemicals do the cleaning while protecting fixtures and grout from water damage, and eliminating the spray-back of potentially bacteria-contaminated water. The ICS can also quickly and accurately apply a single cleaning product at multiple dilution ratios (such as when using hydrogen peroxide-based cleaners). The manufacturers of synthetic-turf playing surfaces have also indicated that using an ICS Series unit to disinfect the field would not have a detrimental effect on the playing surface's integrity.

The ICS Series' unique low-flow design uses only half-a-gallon of cleaning solution per minute, eliminating the need for wet/dry-vac recovery and the handling of contaminated water, while at the same time reducing the slip-and-fall risk. In addition, the ICS Series clean faster. In fact, ISSA 447 Cleaning Times show that the use of touchless cleaning technology can reduce fixture-cleaning time by as much as 67 percent.

The ICS Series are also kind to the environment, with 50-percent less water and chemicals used when compared with many other automated cleaning systems. The ICS Series operates on a rechargeable, maintenance-free 12V lead-acid battery, allowing the user to clean anywhere, regardless of power-outlet availability. It also has an on-board battery charger and battery-life indicator. The compact design and simple operation of the ICS Series eliminates complicated and time-consuming setup and breakdown, and its virtually silent operation also means the user can clean at any time, making it easier to manage daily cleaning schedules.

**For more information on the ICS Series or any other Hydro Systems product, please contact Chris Torry, ICS Sales Manager, at (513) 271-8800 or visit [www.hydrosystemsco.com](http://www.hydrosystemsco.com).**

*Hydro Systems Co., founded in 1963, is the world's largest independent manufacturer of proportioning, dosing and dispensing systems for concentrated chemicals, serving the janitorial, institutional, foodservice, commercial cleaning, industrial and automotive-care markets. All of Hydro Systems' proportioning, dosing, foaming and dispensing systems meet International Plumbing Code (IPC), Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) and American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE) 1055: Performance Requirements for Chemical Dispensers regulatory standards and codes. Headquartered in Cincinnati, OH, Hydro Systems also maintains international offices in the United Kingdom, Brazil, Australia and China. For more information, please visit [www.hydrosystemsco.com](http://www.hydrosystemsco.com).*

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