

Yankees step up to plate in sanitizing Stadium

BY GREGG SARRA | gregg.sarra@newsday.com

January 25, 2009

The potential of a serious staph infection affecting a member of the team has not been lost on the [New York Yankees](#). According to a provider of disinfecting sports coating, the Yankees have been proactive in their quest to keep the new stadium as clean as possible.

"Of course they want to protect their investments, but they also want to minimize any bacterial infection anywhere in the new stadium to protect the fans," said Craig Andrews, CEO of CSG Sportscoatings. "They are the most proactive of any organization in Major League Baseball in protecting their facilities for players and fans."

Andrews said all public bathrooms and concession areas, along with the home and visiting clubhouses, weight rooms, lounges, showers, coaches' rooms, dugouts and bullpens, are being treated.

"They're basically saying we have to keep [Derek Jeter](#) and Alex Rodriguez and the rest of our team in a healthy environment," CSG's Kevin Smith said.

[Mets](#) catcher [Brian Schneider](#) was hospitalized with a staph infection in his left thumb in April 2008. Toronto outfielder Alex Rios was one of two Blue Jays players who contracted staph infections in July 2006, prompting the club to have its clubhouse sterilized. Four [Cleveland Browns](#) players have had staph infections in recent years, including Braylon Edwards and [Kellen Winslow](#). Since 2003, at least three [NFL](#) teams, the Browns, [St. Louis Rams](#) and [Washington Redskins](#), have documented multiple cases of staph infections.