



## MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus)

Your child may have been exposed to this disease on \_\_\_\_\_.  
Date(s)

Please check your child for symptoms through \_\_\_\_\_.  
Date

*If your child has symptoms, please contact your child's healthcare provider.*

### **If my child becomes sick, when can they return to school or child care?**

Students with MRSA infections can attend school unless a healthcare provider tells them not to. They should NOT attend school if

- There is wound drainage or "pus" that cannot be covered and contained with a clean, dry bandage.
- They cannot maintain good personal hygiene.

Staphylococcus aureus, also called "staph" is a very common germ that about 1 out of every 3 people have on their skin or in their nose. Many people carry this bacteria without any illness or problems. But for some people, the bacteria can cause an infection when there is a cut or break in the skin. Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is a type of staph bacteria that is difficult to kill with many antibiotics, but is still treatable. If left untreated, MRSA infections can become severe.

Usual symptoms begin with a bump on the skin. It may look like a spider bite or pimple that may be:

- Red
- Swollen
- Painful
- Warm to touch
- Have pus or drainage
- May also develop a fever

### **What can I do now?**

Watch your child for signs and symptoms. If your child develops symptoms, please cover the area with a bandage, wash your hands and contact your healthcare provider. Please follow your healthcare provider's instructions for home care and to prevent the spread of disease to others. If MRSA or staph infection is diagnosed, please inform the school.

### **How does MRSA spread?**

MRSA skin infections are transmitted primarily by skin-to-skin contact and by contact with surfaces that have come into contact with someone else's infection.

Good hygiene is one of the best tools in preventing MRSA. For example, encourage your child to wash their hands at every opportunity using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and shower immediately after participating in sports activities.

Additionally, if your child has a skin abrasion or cut, keep it covered with a clean dry bandage until healed and avoid the sharing personal items.

If your child has a skin abrasion that does not seem to be getting better, and is accompanied by a fever, or if you are at all concerned, contact your healthcare provider.