



## FACT SHEET: MRSA

*Staphylococcus aureus*, commonly referred to as "staph", are bacteria carried on the skin or nose of healthy people, (approximately 30% of the population). MRSA or methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* is a type of bacteria that is resistant to several antibiotics, however, there are still many antibiotics that can treat it. Some people are colonized with MRSA, meaning they have the infection on their skin or in their nose with no symptoms.

Infections occur with contact with the skin of an infected person a break or cut in the skin allows access to the bacteria. Most of these infections are very minor, some need treatment with antibiotics, and rarely they can be very serious.

### MRSA infections are spread by:

- Direct skin-to-skin contact with someone that is infected
- Contact with drainage from infected scrapes, cuts or wounds or items that might be contaminated, such as bandages, towels, washcloths, razors, clothing, topical creams/ointments, athletic or gym equipment
- Environmental surfaces risk not being contaminated by skin wounds regularly are very low risk

### Please monitor your child for the following symptoms:

Skin wounds, abrasions or cuts	Painful or warm to touch
Redness	Full of pus or drainage
Swelling	Fever

***If your child develops symptoms, please consult with your healthcare provider.***

### Prevention:

- Basic hand hygiene with frequent hand washing
- Wash any cut or break in the skin with soap and water as soon as possible and apply a bandage to cover until healed
- Do not share personal items like clothes, towels, razors, etc.
- Wash any clothes or personal items that may have come in contact and wash your hands
- Remain home if directed by your healthcare provider

### Individuals at High Risk:

Always consult with your healthcare provider with any questions or concerns. Anyone with underlying conditions or immune system compromise should consult with their doctor.

### Return to School:

Students do not need to be excluded from school for MRSA infections unless directed to do so by their doctor. Any wounds or drainage will need to be covered and kept clean and dry. Review good hand hygiene practices and do not share personal items. A clearance letter to resume activities will be needed.

**Any questions please email/call your school nurse, (found on your home school website).**

For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/mrsa/>