

What is MRSA

MRSA is methicillin-resistant Staph aureus, a potentially dangerous type of staph bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics and may cause skin and other infections. MRSA is spread by having direct contact with another person's infection, sharing towels or razors that have touched infected skin or touching bandages contaminated with MRSA. MRSA is not spread among children by playing with or breathing in the same air as someone who has the infection.

Most staph infections, including MRSA, appear as a bump or infected area on the skin that may be:

- ◆ Red
- ◆ Swollen
- ◆ Painful
- ◆ Warm to the touch
- ◆ Full of pus or other drainage
- ◆ Accompanied by a fever

If you think your child has a skin infection, cover the area with a bandage and contact your doctor.

Treatment for MRSA skin infections may include antibiotics prescribed by your doctor. The best way to prevent staph or MRSA is to keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered and not to share personal hygiene items like razors or towels. Remember, MRSA is not spread by breathing the air around someone that has an infection. The best way to prevent this or any other type of bacteria or virus is by good hand washing.

Each year, several children in our school are diagnosed with MRSA. Education is the secret to decreasing the spread of any disease. For more information visit www.cdc.gov/MRSA