

What you need to know about MRSA in school

What is MRSA (*mur-sa*)?

(Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus)

- A type of “staph” infection
- Often causes skin infections
- Resistant to many antibiotics, including penicillin

How do you get MRSA?

- Skin to skin contact with someone who has a MRSA infection
- Contact with items and surfaces that have MRSA on them

Stop the spread of MRSA

- Wash hands often with warm, soapy water
- Use alcohol-based hand gel when soap and water are not available (supervise young children)
- Do not share personal items (bar soap, towels, clothing and razors)
- Do not touch other people’s cuts or bandages
- Cover all wounds with a clean, dry bandage taped on all four sides
- Keep child home from school if wound drainage cannot be contained by a bandage
- Clean shared surfaces (keyboards, desks and doorknobs)
- If given an antibiotic, take all of the doses unless your doctor tells you to stop
- Do not share antibiotics with other people
- Avoid whirlpools or hot tubs

What does it look like?

- A spider or bug bite
- A pimple or boil
- An infection that may have redness, swelling, drainage and may be painful

How is MRSA treated?

By a healthcare provider who may:

- Drain the infection and/or
- Give an antibiotic

