

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Someone in our childcare has been diagnosed with an infection that is caused by Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). MRSA (Mur-sa) is a type of bacteria that is resistant to penicillin, as well as some other antibiotics that are commonly used to treat bacterial infections.

Symptoms of MRSA infections vary depending on the part of the body infected. Skin infections are the most common. MRSA skin infections may look like a spider bite, impetigo, diaper rash, boils or abscesses. Occasionally MRSA gets into the bloodstream or lungs and causes severe illness. If you think your child has a MRSA infection consult your healthcare provider for evaluation and treatment. Notify us so that we can let other parents know someone here has an infection.

Children and workers with a MRSA skin infection may come to childcare only *if* the infection can be contained in a clean dry dressing that is changed at home (not at childcare). A diaper is not considered a clean, dry dressing because it does not stay dry and must be changed often. If there are individuals in the childcare who have immune system problems (Cancer, Leukemia, HIV), then an individual infected with MRSA may *not* come to childcare.

Hand washing is the most effective method of preventing the spread of germs, including MRSA. Cleaning and sanitizing surfaces and items that may be soiled with body fluids or secretions are also important.

Our employees have received training on proper hand washing as well as cleaning and sanitizing childcare environments. We encourage and assist your children with proper hand washing techniques and good hygiene.

Thoughtfully,

(signature)

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