

Sample Parent Newsletter Article

What is MRSA?

What is MRSA (Mur-sa)? Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* is a type of “staph” infection that is resistant to many antibiotics and frequently causes skin infections.

What do MRSA infections look like? Often a MRSA infection will look like a spider or insect bite, a boil, abscess, impetigo or infected turf burn.

How is MRSA spread? MRSA skin infections are generally spread by skin-to-skin contact or by direct contact with the infected wound drainage. MRSA may also be spread by contact with contaminated surfaces or objects such as sports equipment or personal hygiene items. MRSA skin infections are not spread through the air.

How do you prevent and control the spread of MRSA? Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer if water is not available. Avoid sharing personal items such as bar soap, towels, washcloths, clothing or athletic equipment. Report any suspicious skin infection to your healthcare provider immediately. When participating in sports, shower immediately after each practice, game, or match. Wear practice uniforms only once; wash with soap and hot water, dry in hot dryer. Avoid contact with skin infections of others.

Sample Staff Announcement/Email

What to Do About MRSA in Schools

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How do you prevent and control the spread of MRSA? Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer if water is not available. Have students report any suspicious skin infection to the school nurse. Avoid contact with skin infections of others. Wipe down shared surfaces such as desks, keyboards, phones and light switches regularly. Make sure any draining wounds are covered with a clean, dry bandage taped on all 4 sides.

Resources Available

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (Search for “MRSA”)

tpchd.org

Washington State Department of Health,

doh.wa.gov/Topics/Antibiotics/htmlFactsheets/SkinInfections.htm

CDC Hand Hygiene:

cdc.gov/handhygiene/

CDC CA-MRSA Information

cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/Aresist/ca_mrsa.htm