

Dear Parents,

It is that time of year again when colds, flu, and bacterial infections are prevalent among our students and their families. It is about staph infections specifically MRSA that this letter addresses. Most people have heard about staph infections and know that many people have the staph bacteria either on their skin or in their nose, and it never causes a serious infection.

Unfortunately, more and more people are becoming aware of MRSA, or Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus. While regular staph infections are usually treated with an antibiotic, namely penicillin related drugs, the MRSA bacteria have developed a resistance to these antibiotics so they do not work any longer.

**SYMPTOMS:** If you have a skin infection that isn't responding as it should to usual treatment, or has become worse very rapidly, see a doctor immediately. Your doctor can take a culture, confirm the diagnosis, and treat accordingly. If you notice a sore on your child, please keep it covered completely with a band-aid to prevent spread to others.

**TRANSMITTED:** MRSA is transmitted from person to person via hands, skin-to-skin contact, sharing contaminated items such as soap, towels, clothing, athletic equipment etc. through breaks in skin and abrasions.

**PREVENTION:** To avoid staph and MRSA, it is recommended that you and your family practice good hygiene, including:

- \* Keep hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water
- \* Shower daily and after athletic practice or competition
- \* Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed
- \* Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages

**TREATMENT:** Although MRSA is resistant to methicillin and related penicillin type antibiotics, there are usually other antibiotics that still work. If you notice a wound on your child, that does not heal, please contact your physician immediately.

Thank you

Ann Timm MSN,BSN,RN  
School Nurse