

Your child may have been exposed to:

MRSA

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) are *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph) bacteria with resistance to some antibiotics. When bacteria are antibiotic resistant it means that an antibiotic will not kill the bacteria.

If you think your child has MRSA:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- **Need to stay home?**

Childcare and School:

Yes, if draining sores are present and cannot be completely covered and contained with a clean, dry bandage.

No, if child is only colonized.

Activities:

Avoid participating in activities where skin-to-skin contact is likely to occur until sores are healed. This means no contact sports.

Symptoms

An area of skin infection that may be red and warm. There may be pus or drainage. These infections commonly occur where children have cuts and scrapes. Examples include boils, impetigo, cellulitis, and wound infections.

People may be “colonized” with staph bacteria in their nose or on their skin. This means that the bacteria are there without causing any infection or any harm.

If your child is infected, the time it will take for symptoms to start will vary by type of infection.

Spread

- By contact with hands, skin drainage, pus, or secretions from the nose.

Contagious Period

As long as the bacteria are present. A child who has draining infections has more bacteria and is more contagious than a child who is only colonized.

Call your Healthcare Provider

- ◆ If anyone in your home has symptoms. Your doctor will decide what treatment is needed.

Prevention

- Wear disposable gloves when changing bandages. Wash hands after touching any draining sores or changing bandages. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Keep wounds clean, dry, and covered with a bandage. Put used bandages in a plastic bag right away. Close the plastic bag and put it in the trash.
- If possible, people with staph infections should do their own first aid on cuts/scrapes.
- Never share personal items such as washcloths, bar soap, combs, razors, or clothing.
- Keep contaminated laundry separate from other laundry. Wash clothes, bed sheets, and blankets in hot water with detergent and dry in a hot dryer.
- Clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces and objects with a disinfectant that kills *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria.

For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or call your local health department.

Prepared by Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department (HSPHD)