

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.

Keep your child home from childcare and school if draining sores are present and cannot be completely covered and contained with a clean, dry bandage.

Your child does not need to stay home if only colonized.

Avoid activities and contact sports where skin-to-skin contact is likely to occur until sores are healed.

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

Symptoms

An area of skin infection that may be red and warm and may have pus or drainage. 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 touching skin drainage or pus.
- By touching hands, objects, or surfaces contaminated with secretions from the nose.
- By using personal items of someone who has MRSA (towels, wash cloths, bar soap, athletic equipment, etc.).

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 health care provider

- If anyone in your home has symptoms. Your doctor will decide if 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.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as washcloths, bar soap, combs, razors, or clothing.
- If possible, people with staph infections should do their own first aid on cuts/scrapes.
- 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.