

Information About MRSA

- About 30 % of the population carries Staph aureus bacteria on the skin or in the nose. Most staph infections are skin infections that are minor and easily treated.
- Methicillin-resistant Staph aureus (MRSA) is a type of Staph aureus bacteria that has developed resistance to the antibiotic methicillin and usually several other antibiotics. This resistance makes MRSA infections more difficult to treat.
- A small percentage of the population also carries MRSA on the skin or in the nose.
- MRSA is not a new disease. Because MRSA is so common, it is not reportable in Indiana.
- Rarely, MRSA infections are fatal. This can happen if MRSA bacteria get into the blood stream or other body organs. These infections can be difficult to treat.

What does MRSA look like?

- A “spider bite”
- Turf Burn
- Abscess
- Boil
- Impetigo
- Infected skin / wound
- A wound full of pus or other drainage
- Student may have a fever

Proper prevention at all times can help decrease incidence of MRSA infections:

1. Practice frequent and appropriate hand hygiene. Hand washing is an easy way to prevent MRSA infections and to prevent the spreading of the infection. Alcohol based hand sanitizers can also be used in addition to good hand washing.
2. Have those infected keep the area of infection covered with a clean, dry bandage.
3. Do not share personal hygiene items such as soap, towels, ect.
4. Do not touch other person’s bandages or open skin areas without wearing disposable gloves.
5. Routinely clean and sanitize areas where there is frequent skin contact, such as desks, keyboards, phones, light switches, gym equipment, ect.
6. See your local health care provider immediately if you notice wounds or skin breaks that are red, swollen, painful, or draining.

Proper hand washing is vital in the prevention of contacting and or spreading MRSA!