



MRSA **(Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus*)**

What is *Staphylococcus aureus* or “Staph”?

- It is a type of bacteria commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people without causing infection. Sometimes, it may cause skin infections that look like pimples or boils that can be treated with antibiotics. Some Staph (known as MRSA) is resistant to certain antibiotics, making it harder to treat.

What are the symptoms of staph and MRSA that could occur?

- Skin infections that may look like a pimple or boil, and can be red, swollen, painful, and have drainage
- More serious infections may cause pneumonia, bloodstream infections

How is it spread?

- By direct skin-to-skin contact with someone who has a staph infection
- Direct skin contact with items and surfaces that have staph on them

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider evaluation and laboratory testing
- Treatment is antibiotics
- Having doctor drain the infection

Can it be prevented?

- Wash your hands often
- Do not share personal items
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a clean and dry bandage until healed
- Avoid contact with other people’s wounds or bandages
- Practice good hygiene

Should the sick child be isolated?

- No

When can the child return to day care or school?

- Provide documentation from primary care provider.

Should schools do special cleaning?

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-3612