



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) is a bacterial infection caused by Staphylococcus Aureus “Staph” bacteria that are resistant to many antibiotics. Staph frequently causes skin infections and can enter wounds or other body sites. As a skin infection, MRSA can present as an abscess, infected pimple, impetigo, boil, or open wound. MRSA can be mistaken for a spider or insect bite. Symptoms can include: redness, swelling, warmth to touch, pus and tenderness at the site.

MRSA is spread by skin-to-skin contact or by direct contact with the infected wound drainage. MRSA skin infections may also be spread by contact through shared equipment, personal articles/objects or contaminated surfaces.

Please be assured that Norman Public Schools are using appropriate preventive measures to limit the spread of MRSA and ensure our schools remain safe learning environments for students. Possibly contaminated environmental surfaces are cleaned with CDC approved disinfectants. Parents or guardians of students with suspicious skin lesions will be asked to seek medical attention. Open wounds or sores are to be covered while the student is at school.

You and your family can help prevent the spread of MRSA as well as colds and flu by following good health practices:

- Encourage your student to wash his or her hands frequently for at least 15 seconds using soap and water, especially before eating, putting in or taking out contact lenses, and after using the restroom, blowing nose, coughing or sneezing, or whenever the hands look dirty.
- Use alcohol hand gel when soap and water are not available.
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.
- Avoid touching other people’s wounds or bandages.
- Have your student cover his or her mouth and nose with a tissue or crook of the elbow when they sneeze or cough.
- **Do Not** share towels, razors or personal items with others.
- Wipe surfaces of exercise equipment before and after use.

Early treatment of suspected MRSA is important. If you are concerned about a wound or sore on your student, please consult your health care provider.

For more information on MRSA please visit the Center for Disease Control website at:
<http://cdc.gov/MRSA/>

Sincerely,

Sharon Howard, R.N.
Health Services Coordinator