



LAKELAND JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT #272

15506 N. Washington Street P.O. Box 39

Rathdrum, Idaho 83858

Phone: 208.687.0431 Fax: 208.687.1884 Web: lakeland272.org

Communicable Disease Fact Sheet

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

What is MRSA?

- ◆ A staph infection of the skin that is resistant to some penicillin type antibiotics

Symptoms:

- ◆ A person with a skin infection caused by the staph bacteria may look like a pimple or boil and can be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage
- ◆ These skin infections commonly occur at sites of visible skin trauma such as cuts and abrasions, and areas of the body covered by hair
- ◆ More serious infections such as pneumonia, bloodstream infections or surgical wound infections are very rare in healthy people who get MRSA skin infections

How is it spread:

- ◆ MRSA is usually transmitted by direct skin-to-skin contact or contact with shared items or surfaces that have come into direct contact with someone else's infection (e.g., towels, used bandages)

Treatment:

- ◆ Most staph infections and MRSA infections are treatable with antibiotics
- ◆ Almost all MRSA infections may be treated by draining the abscess or boil with or without antibiotics
- ◆ Drainage of skin boils or abscesses should only be done by a healthcare provider

Prevention:

- ◆ Wash hands often or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- ◆ Keep your cuts and scrapes clean and cover them with bandages
- ◆ Do not touch other people's cuts and bandages
- ◆ Do not share personal items like towels or razors

Exclusion from school:

- ◆ Unless directed by a physician, students with MRSA infections should not be excluded from school (www.cdc.gov)
- ◆ Exclusion from school and sports activities should be reserved for those with wound drainage ("pus") that cannot be covered and contained with a clean, dry bandage and for those who cannot maintain good personal hygiene. (www.cdc.gov)

More information:

- ◆ Contact your school nurse at your child's school, or at the School District Office, 687-0431.
- ◆ Contact your health care provider.
- ◆ Contact Panhandle Health District at 208-415-5100
- ◆ www.cdc.gov Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



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