

# MRSA Guidelines

## WHAT IS MRSA?

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (staph) is a type of bacteria found on people's skin. Staph bacteria are usually harmless, but if left untreated it can cause serious infections that can lead to sepsis or death. This type of bacteria is resistant to several antibiotics.

## COMMON SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Red, swollen, pus-filled lesions
- Painful area
- Warm to touch
- Fever

## CONTAGIOUS TIME PERIOD:

Duration of acute illness. If wound drainage is present

## TIME FROM EXPOSURE TO SYMPTOMS:

Variable, usually 4-10 days, however, can be up to several months

## SPREAD BY:

Person-to-person contact, contact with contaminated objects

## TREATMENT / SELF-CARE:

A nasal swab or tissue sample will be taken to diagnose. Antibiotics will be prescribed. Take antibiotics exactly as prescribed, clean hands often

## ACTION AT SCHOOL:

Exclude from school if drainage from lesions cannot be contained or until lesions resolve. Cover skin lesions

## CONSIDERATIONS AND PREVENTION MEASURES:

Cover skin lesions, avoid contact with wound drainage, dispose of wound dressing properly. No sharing of personal items such as towels, wash cloths, razors, clothing. Clean and disinfect equipment between use. Wash and dry laundry on a hot setting. Do not pick at or pop the sore, good handwashing and hygiene.

## MRSA INFECTION

METHICILLIN RESISTANT  
STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS  
(MRSA)

