



# What to do about MRSA in Childcare?

**Description:** Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is a type of staphylococcus or “staph” bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics. Staphylococcus aureus is an organism commonly found on the skin. While many people are all colonized with “staph”, some people tend to develop skin infections, including boils and abscesses. If the strain happens to be MRSA, treatment with certain antibiotics may not work. Although this used to be seen primarily in hospitals, many MRSA infections are now acquired in the community.

**Symptoms:** Redness, swelling, warmth, tenderness of the affected area, or fever. Lesions may start out looking like a “bug bite” but then blisters and spreads to adjacent areas and may form a boil.

**Transmission:** Exposed by direct skin contact with lesion or drainage, sharing objects with a person with a MRSA infection or objects contaminated with MRSA. Exposure leads to colonization with the MRSA organism. Infection occurs when the MRSA organism is introduced into cuts, lesion or open skin or wounds.

## **Guidelines for preventing MRSA infection:**

- Keep infected wounds covered with clean, watertight bandages.
- Clean and sanitize surfaces and items that may be soiled with body fluids or secretions.
- Wash towels or clothing that have been soiled with body fluids or secretions in hot water and dry in a hot dryer.
- Do not share personal items such as towels and bedding.
- Teach children not to touch other people’s wounds or bandages.
- Wear non-porous gloves when cleaning children’s wounds or changing bandages.
- Wash hands before and after using gloves.
- Train child care staff and custodians about hand washing, the spread of infectious disease, and sanitizing procedures.

**Hand washing is the most effective method of preventing the spread of staph.  
WASH HANDS OFTEN!**

**For More Information Contact:** Stark County Health Department  
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