

MRSA FACT SHEET

What is MRSA?

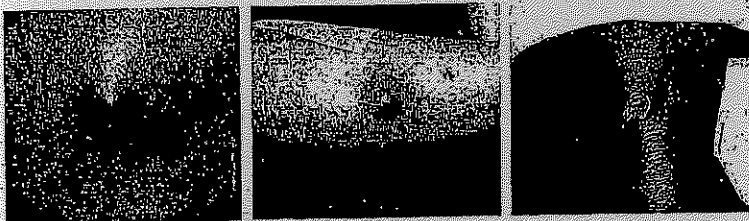
MRSA is methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, a potentially dangerous type of staph bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics and may cause skin and other infections. As with all regular staph infections, recognizing the signs and receiving treatment for MRSA skin infections in the early stages reduces the chances of the infection becoming severe. MRSA is spread by:

- > Having direct contact with another person's infection
- > Sharing personal items, such as towels or razors, that have touched infected skin
- > Touching surfaces or items, such as used bandages, contaminated with MRSA

What are the signs and symptoms?

Most staph skin infections, including MRSA, appear as a bump or infected area on the skin that may be:

- > Red
- > Swollen
- > Painful
- > Warm to the touch
- > Full of pus or other drainage
- > Accompanied by a fever



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<http://phil.cdc.gov>

What if I suspect an MRSA skin infection?

Cover the area with a bandage and contact your healthcare professional. It is especially important to contact your healthcare professional if signs and symptoms of an MRSA skin infection are accompanied by a fever.

How are MRSA skin infections treated?

Treatment for MRSA skin infections may include having a healthcare professional drain the infection and, in some cases, prescribe an antibiotic. Do not attempt to drain the infection yourself – doing so could worsen or spread it to others. If you are given an antibiotic, be sure to take all of the doses (even if the infection is getting better), unless your healthcare professional tells you to stop taking it.

How can I protect my family from MRSA skin infections?

- > Know the signs of MRSA skin infections and get treated early
- > Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered
- > Encourage good hygiene such as cleaning hands regularly
- > Discourage sharing of personal items such as towels and razors

For more information, please call
1-800-CDC-INFO or visit www.cdc.gov/MRSA.



February 3, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

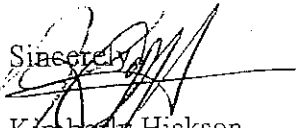
We have received a report of an individual at the Delran Intermediate School who has been diagnosed with methicillin-resistant *staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). MRSA is a type of "staph" infection that is resistant to some, but not all antibiotics. It can cause skin infections. These infections result in redness, warmth, swelling, and tenderness. Often a MRSA infection will look like a spider bite, boil, abscess, or turf burn.

MRSA skin infections are usually spread by skin-to-skin contact or by direct contact with the drainage from the wound. They may also be spread by contact with contaminated surfaces or things such as sports equipment or personal hygiene items. MRSA skin infections are NOT spread through the air.

We have been in close contact with the Burlington County Health Department and were advised that cases of MRSA are not uncommon. The Health Department has assured us that the Delran Intermediate School is not the only school in Burlington County that has been affected by MRSA. The District has a Policy on Communicable Diseases, like MRSA, which we have followed and will continue to follow in response to this situation. Included in our response has been increased cleaning and vigilance in all areas of DIS. Having consulted with the Health Department, our Director of Support services, and our custodial contractor, we can assure you that we have reviewed our infection control and cleaning protocols to ensure that we are doing everything possible to limit the transmission of this and other communicable diseases. Additionally, the person that has contracted MRSA has been excluded from attendance at school until symptom free for 24 hours.

We ask that you be aware of the signs and symptoms of MRSA. If you or a family member has the symptoms described in the enclosed fact sheet, please contact your healthcare provider. For more information on MRSA, please contact the Burlington County Health Department at (609) 265-5548.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Hickson
Principal