

Williamson County Schools
Staphylococcus Aureus (Staph) &
Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)

Information for Families

What is Staph: Bacteria that are commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people. It is the most common cause of skin infection in the United States.

What is MRSA: The staph bacteria that can sometimes be resistant to antibiotics.

How is it spread: Close skin to skin contact, openings in the skin such as cuts and abrasions, contaminated items and surfaces, crowded living conditions.

Can you get a staph or MRSA infection from school or community environment: The environment has not played a significant role in the spread of this bacteria. It is spread most frequently by direct skin to skin contact.

What should you look for: The sore may look like a pimple, or boil and can be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage.

What should you do if you think you might have a staph infection: Contact your healthcare provider.

Can a person come to school if they know they have MRSA: Yes, as long as they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours and the sore is completely covered with a dry dressing.

How can we help prevent the spread of Staph or MRSA in our schools:

- *Hand Washing is the number one defense against the spread of staph.
- *Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- *Commercial sprays known to kill staph and MRSA can be used.
- *Household bleach with 1 part bleach and 10 parts water can be used. It must be discarded and fresh mix prepared each day. Leave on surface for 2-3 minutes before wiping off.
- *Prepared store bought Clorox type product sprays may be used. Leave on surface for 2-3 min.
- *Lysol brand sprays are good to use but must be left on the surface for 10 minutes.
- *Clorox type wipes do not have bleach to kill all bacteria, but are good for cleaning and sanitizing your work areas.

What are we doing at WCSD

- *Encouraging hand washing for all staff and students.
- *Clean counters and desks and door knobs regularly with a bleach or commercial spray.
- *Clean bathrooms and gym surfaces regularly with a bleach or commercial spray.
- *Communicate with parents regarding any concerns about their child.
- *Confidentiality is a key concern.

Reference: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca_public.html

Clorox Co. 1-800-292-2200

Lysol Co. 1-800-228-4722