



# What to do about MRSA

## In Elementary Schools

### What is MRSA (Mur-sa)?

(Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*)

Type of “*Staph*” infection

- Often causes skin infections
- Resistant to many antibiotics, including penicillin

### How is MRSA treated?

By a healthcare provider who may:

- Drain the infection *and/or*
- Give an antibiotic *and/or*
- Help reduce the amount of bacteria on the skin

### What does it look like?

- A “spider bite”
- A “bug bite”
- Abscess
- Boil
- Impetigo
- Infected turf burn



### Stop the spread of MRSA!

- **Wash hands often** with warm, soapy water
- Use 60% alcohol-based hand gel when soap and water are not available (*supervise young children*)
- Do not share personal items (bar soap, towels) or clothing
- Avoid contact with other people’s skin infections
- Cover all wounds with a clean, dry bandage taped on all four sides
- Keep child home from school if wound drainage cannot be contained by a bandage
- Report skin infections to the school nurse
- Wipe down shared desks, keyboards, phones and light switches regularly
- Do not take antibiotics when you do not need them



### How do you get MRSA?

- Touching someone’s MRSA-infected skin
- Touching surfaces that are contaminated with MRSA
- Sharing sports equipment
- Sharing personal hygiene items (bar soap, towels, washcloths)
- Not having the resources to keep clean
- Overusing antibiotics, also stopping them early, or missing doses