

MRSA

MRSA Methicillin – Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

Please be advised that the Hackettstown Public Schools continue to be proactive in addressing school health issues, specifically **MRSA**.

In addition to our regular cleaning, athletic facilities have been sanitized and this process will continue for the foreseeable future.

Our athletic director, coaches and athletic trainer are also addressing this issue with student athletes.

WHAT IS MRSA?

Staphylococcus aureus – bacteria commonly found in noses and skin on healthy people. **MRSA** – Staphylococcus aureus that has become resistant to antibiotics. Skin infections are the most common site for staph infections. MRSA skin infections are generally minor, such as pimples, boils and other skin conditions. They are often mistaken for spider bites. Typically local redness and warmth is felt at the site of the infected area with or without pus. Examples of this are impetigo, boils, and infected wounds. Although rare, the bacteria can get into the blood stream and can cause severe illness.

HOW IS IT SPREAD?

Staph bacteria are mainly spread person to person, wound drainage, or nasal secretions of a person who is infected. Surfaces may also be contaminated with the bacteria therefore it can be spread this way as well.

TREATMENT

Infections caused by staphylococcus aureus are treated with antibiotics. Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus **MRSA** is more difficult to treat since choices of antibiotics are limited. These infections require more invasive intervention.

TIPS FOR PREVENTION

- **HAND WASHING** is the most effective method of preventing the spread of Staphylococcus Aureus.
- Avoid contact with infected areas. Students should keep all infected areas covered with bandages. All bandages should be disposed of in an area that no one else may come into contact. If contact occurs, hand washing is necessary with warm water and soap.
- See your physician for signs of infection, fever, redness, and swelling.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels, clothing, and washcloths. All linens that may have been in contact with an infected area need to be laundered in hot water and dried in a dryer.
- Clean potentially contaminated surfaces as sports equipment, and mats with disinfectant

If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to call your school nurse, or go to The New Jersey State Division of Health and Senior Services website www.state.nj.us/health and click on the MRSA link under “IN OUR SPOTLIGHT.”