

## Other Resources

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar\\_mrsa\\_in\\_schools.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_in_schools.html)

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/MRSA/index.htm>



Feel free to call Public Health with any questions or to report a case of MRSA within your school.



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**Sheboygan County  
Division of Public  
Health**



## **MRSA in the School Setting: What Is It? How Can We Control It?**

▶ **Our Mission:** To promote conditions in Sheboygan County in which people can be healthy.

## What is MRSA?

MRSA is a type of Staphylococcus bacteria (staph). Staph is commonly found on the skin or in the nose of healthy, as well as ill, persons. MRSA is a type of staph that is resistant to the antibiotic methicillin.

## How Common are Staph and MRSA?

At any time 25-30% of the population is carrying the staph bacteria while about 1% of the population is carrying MRSA. Some individuals carrying this bacteria develop skin or other infections.

## What Does an Infection Look Like?

Staph bacteria, including MRSA, can cause skin infections that may look like a pimple or boil and can be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage. A few people, mostly those who have weakened immune systems, may become very ill with bloodstream or bone infections, pneumonia, or meningitis.

## How Is MRSA Transmitted?

MRSA is most frequently spread by direct skin-to-skin contact or with direct contact to wound drainage of someone who is carrying or infected with the bacteria. MRSA may also occur by indirect contact with contaminated surfaces or items.

## How Is MRSA Treated?

Treatment regimes for MRSA will vary from person to person. Some MRSA infections require a full course of antibiotics, others may require the draining of the infected wound or boil by a healthcare professional without the use of antibiotics.



## How Can We Limit the Spread?

- Encourage good hand washing with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Students who participate in contact sports should be encouraged to shower with soap immediately after each practice, game, or match.
- Open or draining sores and lesions should be kept clean and covered. Staff assisting with wound care should wear gloves, properly discard dressings and wash their hand with soap and water after dressing changes.
- Clean shared equipment surfaces daily with appropriate cleaners and/or disinfectants. Repair or dispose of equipment and furniture with damaged surfaces that cannot be adequately cleaned.
- Individuals with wounds that do not heal or do show signs of infection should be encouraged to seek medical care.
- School personnel are encouraged to confer with their school nurse or the local health department when cases of MRSA occur in the school setting. Note: Individuals with MRSA infection may require exclusion from the school setting including contact sports when draining lesions are not able to be adequately covered with dry dressings.
- *Hand washing is the single most important means of preventing the spread of infection.*

