

What to do about MRSA



in Elementary Schools

Learning Objectives



- What is MRSA?
- How is MRSA spread?
- What increases the risk of infection?
- How can we reduce the spread of MRSA in schools?

What is MRSA?

(Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*)

- Type of “staph” infection
- Often causes skin infections
- “Super Bug” - resistant to (not killed by) penicillin
- Treatable with appropriate antibiotic

What do MRSA skin infections look like?

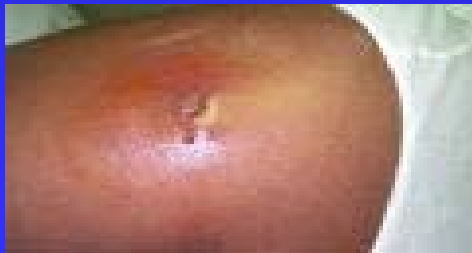
- Spider or bug bite (looks & feels like)
- Infected skin/wound
- Impetigo
- Boil/abscess



Source: LA County Health Department



Source: CDC



Source: CDC



Source: CDC



Source: Mark Grubb, MD

How is MRSA spread?

■ Skin to Skin Contact

- ◆ Touching MRSA infected skin
- ◆ Touching drainage from MRSA skin infection

■ Surface to Skin Contact

- ◆ Sharing personal items (bar soap, towels, clothes, sports equipment)
- ◆ Touching surfaces that have MRSA on them like phones, keyboards, doorknobs

What increases the risk of MRSA infection?

- Close skin contact w/someone who has MRSA
- Skin disease or injury
- Lack of good hygiene
- Sharing personal items or sports equipment
- Overcrowded living conditions
- Lack of access to healthcare
- Incorrect use or overuse of antibiotics

Who Gets MRSA

Anyone can get MRSA!



How are MRSA skin infections treated?

By a healthcare provider who may:

- Drain the infection and/or
- Prescribe an antibiotic based on culture results

How do we reduce the spread of MRSA?

Protect others from infected wounds

- Report all potential skin infections to the school nurse or health tech
- Keep wounds covered with clean, dry bandages taped on all four sides
- Don't touch other people's skin lesions
- Stay home if wound drainage cannot be contained by clean, dry dressing

How do we reduce the spread of MRSA?

Hand washing is the most important way!

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
(Antibacterial soap is **not** necessary)
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60% or greater) when soap/water not available
(Supervise young children)
- Wash visibly dirty hands with soap and water – always!

How do we reduce the spread of MRSA?

Do not share personal items

- Bar soap, clothes, towels, bedding

Shower

- Regularly after participating in team sports

How do we reduce the spread of MRSA?

Use barriers

- Gloves for cleaning
- Towels on gym equipment/benches
- Paper towel to turn off faucet after washing hands and to open bathroom door

Clean & disinfect

- Environmental surfaces that come in direct contact with skin
- Sports equipment & gym mats

How do we reduce the spread of MRSA?

Clean and disinfect surfaces

- Clean first – remove soil w/cloth, soap & water
- Disinfect – wipe down surfaces with disinfectant, may use wipes such as “Clorox” or “Lysol” (follow manufacturers directions)
- Establish routine cleaning and disinfecting schedule

Teachers & administrative staff – Team up with custodians

Clean & disinfect



- Keyboards
- Phones
- Desktops, lunch tables
- Doorknobs, light switches

Physical education teachers – Team up

Clean & disinfect

- Equipment (sports gear) that directly touch skin - after each use
- Practice surfaces (gym mats) - after each use

Help families team up

Encourage



- Frequent hand washing & use of 60% alcohol sanitizer when soap & water not available
- Showering immediately after sports
- Wearing athletic uniforms once, then washing with soap/hot water & drying in a hot dryer
- Reporting skin infections to school nurse or health tech



Protecting students
from infections helps
protect you ...and
your family!



Things to remember

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly
- Do not share personal items
- Clean and disinfect surfaces
- Keep cuts covered to protect yourself and others
- Report all skin infections to the school nurse or health tech

Resources





Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
www.tpchd.org

Washington State Department of Health
www.doh.wa.gov/

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca.html

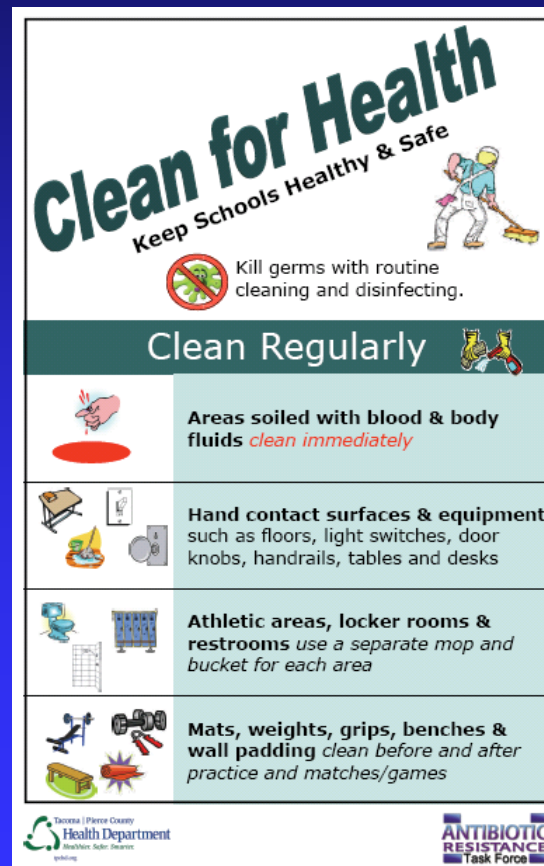
Available fact sheet

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department


	<h3>What to do about MRSA</h3> <p>In Elementary Schools</p>	
<p>What is MRSA (Mur-sa)? <small>(Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus)</small></p> <p>Type of "Staph" infection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Often causes skin infections• Resistant to many antibiotics, including penicillin	<p>How is MRSA treated?</p> <p>By a healthcare provider who may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drain the infection <i>and/or</i>• Give an antibiotic <i>and/or</i>• Help reduce the amount of bacteria on the skin	
<p>What does it look like?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A "spider bite"• A "bug bite"• Abscess• Boil• Impetigo• Infected turf burn  	<p>Stop the spread of MRSA!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wash hands often with warm, soapy water• Use 60% alcohol-based hand gel when soap and water are not available (<i>supervise young children</i>)• 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 	
<p>How do you get MRSA?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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		
<p>Tacoma Pierce County Health Department <small>Prevention Health Education</small></p> <p>WASH HANDS OFTEN!</p> <p>ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE Task Force</p>		


Available poster



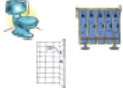

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department



Clean for Health
Keep Schools Healthy & Safe

 Kill germs with routine cleaning and disinfecting.

Clean Regularly 

	Areas soiled with blood & body fluids <i>clean immediately</i>
	Hand contact surfaces & equipment such as floors, light switches, door knobs, handrails, tables and desks
	Athletic areas, locker rooms & restrooms use a separate mop and bucket for each area
	Mats, weights, grips, benches & wall padding clean before and after practice and matches/games

Tacoma | Pierce County
Health Department
AshaWax Sider Belarue
epidemiology

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE
Task Force

Available poster

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department



Available poster

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

 *Be a Germ-Buster...* 
WASH YOUR HANDS!

1. WET


2. SOAP


3. WASH


4. RINSE


5. DRY


6. TURN OFF WATER WITH PAPER TOWEL


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