



# PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

## METHICILLIN RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS (MRSA)

Dear Parent:

This is to bring to your attention that a case of MRSA has been reported for a student in your child's classroom and to provide you with information about this disease. If your child exhibits any of the symptoms described below, it is recommended that you consult your healthcare provider or the Department of Health in Duval County School Health at 904-253-1580.

### **What is MRSA?**

- An antibiotic resistant (Methicillin) staphylococcus aureus bacteria
- Other antibiotics are used to treat this type of infection

### **What are the symptoms of MRSA?**

- Skin infections may be red bumps, puss-filled boils or abscesses
- Enlarging red area of skin (cellulitis) that extends beyond the boil or bump (Impossible to tell if it is MRSA by looking at its appearance)
- Other areas of MRSA infection may produce fever, tiredness, pain and swelling of the joints or bones, cough (if infection is in lungs)

### **How is MRSA spread?**

- Close skin-to-skin contact
- Crowded living conditions
- Poor personal hygiene
- Direct contact with open sores or boils

### **How is MRSA be prevented?**

- Thorough and frequent hand washing with soap and water
- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels
- Cover open or draining sores or boils
- Avoid contact with other people's wounds, drainage or contaminated bandages from wounds

### **Implications for school**

- No exclusion required unless fever or uncovered weeping sores are present
- Affected area(s) must be covered while at school

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

American Academy of Pediatrics:

<https://healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/abdominal/Pages/FoodPoisoning-and-Food-Contamination.aspx>