

**Your child may have been exposed to:**

# MRSA

## Quick Help

### If you think your child has MRSA

Tell your childcare provider or call the school.

### Need to stay home?

**Yes**, if draining sores are present and cannot be completely covered and contained with a clean, dry bandage.

**No**, if child is only colonized.

**Activities:** avoid participation in activities where skin-to-skin contact is likely to occur until sores are healed. This means no contact sports.

### Prevention

- Wear disposable gloves when changing bandages. Wash hands after touching any draining sores or changing bandages. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Keep wounds clean, dry and covered with a bandage. Put used bandages in a plastic bag right away. Close the plastic bag and put it in the trash.
- If possible, people with staph infectious should do their first aid on cuts/scrapes.
- Never share personal items such as washcloths, bar soap, combs, razors or clothing.
- Keep contaminated laundry separate from other laundry. Wash in hot water and dry in hot dryer.
- Clean /disinfect contaminated surfaces and objects with a disinfectant that kills *Staph. aureus* bacteria.

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) are *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph) bacteria with resistance to some antibiotics. **When bacteria are antibiotic resistant, it means that an antibiotic will not kill the bacteria.**

### Symptoms:

An area of skin infection that may be red and warm. There may be pus or drainage. These infections commonly occur where children have cuts and scrapes. Examples include boils, impetigo, cellulitis and wound infections. People may be “colonized” with staph bacteria in their nose or on their skin. This means that the bacteria are there without causing any infection or any harm. If your child is infected, the time it will take for symptoms to start will vary by type of infection.

### Spread

- By contact with hands, skin drainage, pus or secretions from the nose.

### Contagious Period

As long as the bacteria are present. A child who has draining infections has more bacteria and is more contagious than a child who is only colonized.

### Call your Healthcare Provider

- If anyone in your home has symptoms. Your doctor will decide what treatment is needed.

For more information, please visit or call:  
Oldham County Health Department  
1786 Commerce Parkway, LaGrange KY 40031  
502-222-3516 ext. 136  
[www.oldhamcountyhealthdepartment.org](http://www.oldhamcountyhealthdepartment.org)

