

STAPH SKIN INFECTIONS FACT SHEET

General information about Staph Infections:

- Caused by the bacteria staphylococcus aureas
- Everyone has this bacteria on their skin, only becomes a problem when it enters the body through a cut or scrape
- Likes warm, moist environments, putting athletics who sweat a lot, playing contact sports of any kind at great risk

How are the bacteria spread?

- Spread through the air, on contaminated surfaces, and from person to person (by skin to skin contact)
- Viruses and bacteria can live 2 hours or longer on surfaces like cafeteria tables, doorknobs, and desks
- Kids can carry staph on dirty hands and under dirty fingernails-spread it to others that way
- If skin is injured such as a cut, scrape, or rash such as poison ivy, keep the area clean and covered to reduce chances of wound getting infected

How can I prevent my child from getting Staph?

- **WASH YOUR HANDS**
- Can prevent staph infections by keeping your child's skin clean with a daily bath or shower
- Do not share towels, sheets, or clothing. Wash towels daily if any skin infection is present
- Do not touch any potentially infected areas; this will prevent them from spreading

How are Staph Infections treated?

- Call your doctor if your child has an area of red, irritated, or painful skin, especially if you see whitish pus or your child has a fever or feels sick
- Staph skin infections are treated by washing the skin with an antibacterial cleanser, then applying antibiotic ointment prescribed by your doctor, and then covering the area
- When treating an infection, use towels and washcloths that are used to clean the area only once; then wash in hot water