

Dear Parents:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the important details regarding the antibiotic-resistant skin infection called MRSA.

What is MRSA? - MRSA is a type of “staph” infection that is resistant to many antibiotics and frequently causes skin infections.

What does MRSA look like? - MRSA often looks like a spider bite, a boil, and an abscess or turf burn.

How is MRSA spread? - MRSA infections are generally spread by skin-to-skin contact or by direct contact with the infected wound drainage. MRSA infections are not spread through the air.

How do you prevent and control the spread of MRSA? - WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY WITH SOAP AND WATER or use 60% alcohol-based sanitizer if water is not available. Avoid sharing personal items such as bar soap, towels, washcloths, razors, or clothing.

We here at the Altoona Area School District follow strict guide lines for sanitizing sports equipment, and cleaning procedures for all of our school buildings. We also encourage and promote hand washing among our students. However, we need parent involvement to promote and encourage healthy lifestyles such as frequent hand washing.

Sincerely,

Paula Dibert
School Nurse