



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

FACT SHEET MRSA

(Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*)

What is MRSA?	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> is a bacteria that usually causes skin infection. MRSA is what it is called when that bacteria doesn't respond to specific antibiotic treatments.
How is it spread?	MRSA is passed from person to person through direct contact with skin or through contact with contaminated surfaces/items.
What is the incubation period?	The time it takes from being exposed to developing symptoms is unknown. It can vary for each individual.
What are the symptoms?	Mild infections may look like a pimple or boil and can be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage. More serious infections may cause pneumonia, bloodstream infections, or surgical wound infections.
What about contacts?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage good handwashing ▪ Do not share personal items (towels, uniforms, etc) ▪ Watch for signs of infection
How long is the person contagious?	Once a person is infected with MRSA, they are always a carrier and can spread it to others. However, the infection is much more easily spread through draining sores.
When is it OK to return to school/daycare?	Exclusion is not necessary unless there is a wound with drainage that can't be covered with a clean, dry bandage.
Other Important Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage hand washing before eating and after using the bathroom. ▪ Be sure your family members use antibiotics properly. Take all that are prescribed, even if the symptoms stop before the prescription is used up. Do not share prescriptions. ▪ Children who participate in sports should wash their hands after each practice and game. They should not share equipment, uniforms, towels, or other personal items (e.g., razors). Wash uniforms and towels with hot water and detergent after each use.

This fact sheet is not intended to replace the advice of your physician. Parents should contact their healthcare provider if they have concerns regarding their child's health. If you have general questions, you may contact a Kalamazoo County nurse at 373-5022 or 373-5267.

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HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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