



Programs for Parents, Inc.
Comprehensive Services for Families & Children

YOUR MONTHLY HEALTH TIP FROM PFP

MRSA

MRSA (Mur-sa) is a **Staphylococcus bacterium** that has become resistant to antibiotics. This means that these particular staph bacteria, Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus, **will not respond to antibiotics**. What does this mean for the children attending child care? How can we prevent MRSA infections from spreading?

MRSA is spread through:

- **Contact with MRSA infected skin**
- **Athletic equipment that has not been properly cleaned after use**
- **Sharing washcloths**
- **Sharing dress up items**
- **Sharing toys without cleaning them between use**

The best way to prevent the spread of MRSA as well as other germs is **frequent hand washing** with running water and soap. Other measures used to prevent the spread of infection are called **Standard Health Precautions**.

Standard Health Precautions include the following:

- **Treating all blood and body fluids as if they are infected with bacteria**
- **Covering cuts or openings on the skin**
- **Covering the mouth when sneezing or coughing**
- **Disinfecting toys, tables and chair surfaces with a mixture of bleach and water solution**

As a provider, you may want to keep your eye on **minor skin problems** such as:

- **Pimples**
- **Redness and/ or swelling**
- **Insect bites**
- **Cuts and scrapes**
- **Drainage from any of these areas which are signs of infection**

Remember that not all staph infections are caused by MRSA and only a medical provider can **diagnose and treat an infection**. Medical providers are using different methods to treat MRSA infections, such as drainage of the abscess or certain medications such as Vancomycin.

**Please call the Warmline nurse at
1-800-713-9006
with any questions or to get information
on the MRSA Toolkit for
Child Care Programs.**

