



2096 Red Arrow Trail
Madison, WI 53711
608-275-6740

MRSA

Communicable Disease Exposure Notice

Dear Parents:

Your child may have been exposed to the communicable disease **Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)** in a Reach Dane/Reach Green classroom on the following date _____.

Please review the information below. If you have any questions, or if you child begins experiencing symptoms of the illness, contact your child's primary care provider or one of the agencies listed below.

Public Health – Madison & Dane County

(608) 266-4821

Green County Health Department

(608) 328-9390

What is MRSA?

MRSA stands for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus. MRSA is a type of staph bacterium that is resistant to most common antibiotics that are used to treat staph infections. Most people have staph bacteria that live on their skin without any symptoms of infection. When the skin barrier is interrupted (for example: cuts, lacerations, abrasions, surgical incisions), the staph bacteria can cause a soft tissue infection that we call MRSA.

What are the symptoms of MRSA?

The symptoms of MRSA are pimples, boils, or abscesses that may be mistaken for “spider bites.” They can be anywhere on the body, vary in size, and can be painful.

How does a person get MRSA?

A person gets MRSA through contact (directly or indirectly) with a person who has a wound infection or a respiratory tract infection. A person may also get MRSA through contact with a person who has been colonized with MRSA. ‘Colonization’ means that the person has MRSA on their skin, but does not have any symptoms.

How long does it take to develop MRSA following exposure?

The time from exposure to development of MRSA varies greatly. It is usually 4-10 days, but can be up to several months.

How is MRSA treated?

Your health care provider can advise you on treatment options. MRSA is often treated with antibiotics, such as Bactrim, vancomycin and daptomycin. Laboratory tests are usually done to

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find out which antibiotic will work best to treat the MRSA infection. Only patients with symptomatic MRSA infection should be treated. The length of the infections depends on how severe the infection is, how it responds to antibiotics, and the health status of the person who has MRSA.

How long is a child with MRSA excluded from childcare?

Children are excluded from childcare if drainage from the lesions cannot be contained under a dressing. This is dependent on the size and placement of the lesions. If the draining lesions cannot be contained, the child is excluded until lesions resolve.

How can I limit the spread of MRSA?

Handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds is the most important measure to prevent transmission of MRSA. When caring for someone with MRSA, gloves should be worn when handling body fluids (urine, wound drainage, etc.) or touching surfaces contaminated with body fluids. Surfaces contaminated with MRSA should be cleaned with soap and water followed by a bleach solution. Laundry, dishes, and eating utensils can be washed in the normal manner.