

Prevention of the spread of MRSA in the school setting

Studies have shown that MRSA is capable of prolonged survival on everyday surfaces, therefore the following is recommended:

Prevention for the Spread of MRSA in Day Care and Primary School

Environments:

- Cots, toys and diaper cleaning changing surfaces should be cleaned and sanitized thoroughly on a regular basis with a phenol or chlorine wipe such as liquid Lysol.
- Parents and children should wash hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately upon entering the facility or classroom in the morning or after outside play.
- Cuts and scrapes should be cleaned with soap and water and covered with a bandage until healed. Caregivers should always use gloves when applying or changing bandages and wash hands immediately afterwards.
- At school, children should not be permitted to share personal items such as blankets, mats, or clothing.

Prevention for the Spread of MRSA in Secondary School and Athletic

Environments:

- Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Use the 15 second rule while washing hands, this is just enough time to sing the alphabet or birthday song.
- Avoid sharing personal and skin care items such as clothing and balms or moisturizers.
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.
- Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages, and wash hands immediately after changing a bandage.
- Seek medical attention immediately if a wound does not heal properly or appears to be infected.
- Students and teachers should be encouraged to report known or suspected MRSA infections to the school nurse.
- It is recommended that computer keyboards be disinfected daily for 5 seconds with chlorine or phenol based wipe such as liquid Lysol.

Prevention for the Spread of MRSA in Athletic Environments:

- Showering with soap after every practice or tournament. In team locations where soap is often shared, switch to a liquid soap.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels, washcloths, razors, clothing, or uniforms.
- Never wipe your face with a towel used on athletic equipment.
- Avoid sharing balms, lubricants, and moisturizers.
- Wash uniforms, clothes, towels, and sheets that become soiled with water and laundry detergent. Drying clothes in a hot dryer, rather than air-drying, also helps kill bacteria in clothes.
- Non-washable gear (e.g. head protectors), should be wiped down with a phenol or chlorine based wipe such as liquid Lysol after each use.
- Athletic equipment such as wrestling or gymnastics mats should be wiped down regularly with an antibacterial solution such as diluted Liquid Lysol.
- Lockers and benches should be sanitized on a regular basis using disinfectant cleaners containing phenol or chlorine.
- Do not share whirlpools with other team members.
- Whirlpools in athletic rooms must be emptied and disinfected between uses.
- Do not shave body skin for wound care or cosmetic reasons.