



STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS (STAPH) FACT SHEET

What is Staphylococcus aureus?

Staphylococcus aureus, often called “*staph*,” refers to bacteria healthy people can carry on the skin or in the nose. Staph bacteria commonly cause skin infections that are generally minor, appearing as pimples and boils. In addition to skin infections, staph bacteria can cause infections in the blood, lungs (pneumonia) and surgical sites.

Who gets Staph Infections?

Anyone can get a Staph infection. People are more likely to get a Staph infection if they have:

- ✓ Skin-to-skin contact with someone who has a Staph infection
- ✓ Contact with items and surfaces that have Staph on them
- ✓ Openings in their skin such as cuts and scrapes
- ✓ Poor Hygiene
- ✓ Crowded living conditions

How are Staph Infections Treated?

Several antibiotics can be used to treat most staph infections. If antibiotics are prescribed, the full course of medication should be taken. If the infection worsens the health care provider should be contacted.

How do we keep Staph infections from spreading?

- ✓ **Hand washing is the single most effective technique for preventing the spread of communicable disease.** If soap and water are not available an alcohol based sanitizer should be used.
- ✓ Keep cuts and scrapes clean and cover them with bandages
- ✓ Do not touch other people’s cuts or bandages
- ✓ Do not share personal items like towels or razors

What environmental controls should be implemented?

Infectious agents can spread through contact with environmental surfaces. In addition to routine cleaning schedule, staff should

- ✓ After each use, clean mats and any equipment and surfaces where there is contact.
- ✓ Clean only with the school system approved solution that will kill the Staph bacteria. Contact your custodial staff or plant operations for the solution.