



New York City Department of Education

MRSA Recommendations

The following is the Department of Education's protocol to address MRSA.

1. Promote good hygiene including keeping hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, covering open wounds, and not sharing personal items such as towels or razors.
2. Continue to clean schools using the standard cleaning procedures that are effective against MRSA and other germs.
3. Check that school bathrooms are always equipped with sufficient supplies of soap and paper towels.
4. Check that cleaning protocols for athletic equipment are strictly followed.
5. Remind coaches that athletes should report all skin lesions and should cover them during practice and competition. Wrestlers should be excluded until lesions are healed; other athletes should be excluded from contact sports if lesions are draining and cannot be covered with a dry bandage.
6. The Health Department will review confirmed cases and, if evidence suggests a risk of spread within a school, will notify the school principal and work with the school to address the issue.

Additional Resources such as a Frequently Asked Questions can be found at the link below. A sample letter from principals to parents for confirmed cases can be found on the next page.

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/DYD/Health/default.htm>



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Dear Parents,

I wanted to reach out to let you know that a positive case of drug-resistant Staph infection was confirmed at our school. The Health Department confirmed this case and is working with our school to minimize the risk of other infections.

The Health Department has advised us that Staph infections (including the drug-resistant MRSA) do not generally spread through a shared environment such as a classroom. Because of no immediate risk, it is not recommended that any student be kept at home from school.

Steps have been taken to ensure that sufficient soap and paper towels are available in the school. Good hygiene is the best way to reduce the risks of spread.

Here are some things you can share with your children to prevent Staph infections:

1. Keep hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Avoid sharing personal items such as towels or razors.
3. Keep cuts and scrapes clean and, during school activities, covered with a bandage.
4. Consult your doctor if you're concerned about a skin infection that isn't getting better.

If you have questions, please contact your Parent Coordinator or 311.

Sincerely,

Principal