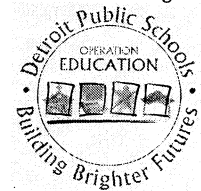
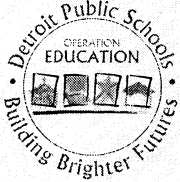


# DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Detroit Public Schools Coordinated School Health Programs

### Detroit Public Schools Respond to Staphylococcus aureus or MRSA Infection

#### To parents and the neighbors of The Detroit Public Schools:

In light of the recent news reports about cases of Staphylococcus aureus or MRSA infections in several school districts in the Metropolitan Detroit area, we want you to know that the Detroit Public Schools District is taking precautions to reduce the risk of the spread of an MRSA infection among our students and staff. For a confirmed case, **the District immediately puts into action existing guidelines dictated by the Detroit Health Department that help reduce the spread of MRSA and/or any infectious disease.** In every school, the District is also continually reinforcing the importance of adhering to our rules regarding cleaning and sanitizing schools especially the locker rooms and cafeterias.

Regular hand washing/good hygiene is the most effective way to prevent the spread of disease. Our school staff is explaining this to students in every class, and we are encouraging parents to reinforce the importance of developing risk of disease reducing habits at home;

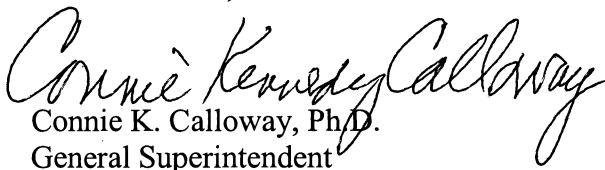
- frequent hand washing,
- showering thoroughly after playing sports
- and keeping any cuts and wounds clean.

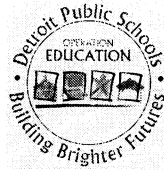
**If** you believe that your child, you or someone in your household might be infected or if you have any questions, please call your family doctor or The Detroit Health Department at 313-876-4138.

**If the physician determines that your child is not sick, he/she should attend school. If your child is sick and requires medical attention, for Staph or any illness, it is the policy of the Detroit Public Schools that written clearance from the health care provider must be presented at the school in order for your child to resume attending classes.**

By working together and reinforcing the importance of **good hygiene** at school and at home, we can help keep our students healthy. If you have any health questions specific to the Detroit Public Schools, please call our **Department of Health and Physical Education at 313-873-7735.**

Yours in health,

  
Connie K. Calloway, Ph.D.  
General Superintendent



## STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS OR MRSA INFECTION

*Below are answers to some common questions about Staph.*

### *What is Staphylococcus aureus or Staph and what are the symptoms of an infection?*

Staph is a type of bacteria. It may cause skin infections that look like pimples or boils. Skin infections caused by Staph may be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage. Some Staph (*known as Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus or MRSA*) are resistant to certain antibiotics and are harder to treat. The following information applies to both Staph and MRSA.

### *Who develops Staph infections?*

Staph is a resident bacteria that is normally found on your skin so anyone can get a Staph infection but 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 or scrapes
- ◆ Crowded living conditions
- ◆ Poor hygiene

### *How serious are Staph infections?*

Most Staph skin infections are minor and may be easily treated. But Staph also may cause more serious infections such as infections of the bloodstream, surgical sites, or pneumonia. Sometimes a Staph infection that begins as a skin infection may worsen. It is important to contact your doctor if you suspect that you have a skin infection.

### *How are Staph infections treated?*

Treatment for a Staph skin infection may include taking an antibiotic or having a doctor drain the infected sites. If you are given an antibiotic, be sure to take all of the doses even if the infection is getting better unless your doctor tells you to stop taking it. Be sure to let your doctor know if your condition does not improve. Also, don't share antibiotics with other people or save them to use later.

### *How can I reduce my risk of contracting a Staph infection?*

- ☉ Wash your hands often or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- ☉ Shower thoroughly after playing sports
- ☉ Keep your cuts and scrapes clean and cover them with fresh bandages
- ☉ Do not touch other person's cuts or bandages
- ☉ Do not share personal items like towels or razors

*Primary Source: Centers for Disease Control*