

Moonachie Board of Education

*20 West Park Street
Moonachie, New Jersey 07074-1192*

June 9, 2011

Dear Parents,

You are probably aware of MRSA in news reports and articles over the last few years. MRSA stands for Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus. It is a staph infection caused by a bacteria that is resistant to many traditionally used antibiotics. Staph bacteria typically cause only minor problems in healthy people. But in older people, people with weakened immune systems, people who are ill, or young children (whose immune systems are not developed), MRSA can cause serious problems.

There is one reported case of MRSA at Robert L. Craig School. The student involved is under a doctor's care. Following school policy, the medically treated wound must be covered at all times.

Staph infections generally start as small red bumps that resemble pimples or bug bites. These can quickly turn into pus filled, painful, swollen areas that require surgical draining, by a doctor.

The following list is what you can do to protect yourself, your child and the RLC School community from MRSA:

1. Keep personal items personal. Do not share towels, sheets, razors, clothing and athletic equipment. Teach your children to do the same. MRSA spreads on contaminated objects and through direct contact. Do not touch other's bandages. Clean daily surfaces such as counters, vanities and bathroom surfaces.
2. Keep wounds covered. Clean your children's cuts and scrapes with soap and water. Dry and apply a band-aid. Keep all cuts and scrapes covered until they heal. Keep a supply of band-aids at home. DO NOT use bar soap. Bacteria lives in bar soap. Use liquid soap.
3. Examine your child's skin daily. Check and recheck any bug bites for increased pain and swelling.
4. Have any oozing wound (a wound with pus) evaluated by a doctor. Have the wound tested for MRSA. Notify the school nurse.

5. Sanitize linens. If you or your child has a cut or sore, wash towels and bed linens in HOT water with added bleach. Dry all linens in a HOT dryer to kill the bacteria. DO NOT SHARE TOWELS.
6. Wash your hands. Use any liquid soap and scrub hands briskly for 15 seconds. Encourage your children to wash their hands often. Keep your child's fingernails short. Cut them weekly. Clean the dirt from under their fingernails daily.

At the Robert L. Craig School, we take the health of our students and faculty seriously. We have developed the following plan to prevent MRSA infections.

1. Encourage frequent hand washing by students and employees. Hand sanitizers are available in every classroom when hand washing must be delayed. Use of hand sanitizer will be followed ASAP with hand washing with soap and water.
2. Sanitizing wipes are available in every classroom to be used as needed throughout the school day.
3. All students or staff members with a suspicious or oozing skin lesion will be excluded immediately for medical evaluation by a doctor. A written doctor's note will be required for readmission to school. All medically treated wounds must be covered at all times for a student to remain in school.
4. Staff and students will be encouraged to practice proper personal hygiene (daily showers, wearing clean clothing, etc.).
5. If MRSA is diagnosed, the school nurse will interview the student and parent to investigate the possibility of other cases among Robert L. Craig staff and students. All cases of MRSA will be reported to the Superintendent and then to the County Superintendent of Schools. More than one case will be reported to the local health department.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Gallo, RN
Certified School Nurse
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