

Staph Infection

In light of recent information related to methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections, Platte County R-3 schools are taking precautions to ensure the health and safety of students and staff members. MRSA is a form of staph infection that does not respond to routine treatment with some commonly used antibiotics, although other antibiotics have proven effective. Staph infections are a regular occurrence in the community and within schools, and it is not unusual for PCR-3 officials to learn of isolated cases each year through our thorough health tracking procedures.

PCR-3 School District custodians and coaches already take extensive precautions to clean and sanitize any surfaces, such as wrestling mats, which have the potential to spread illness. Recently, employees are taking extra precautions to further clean and sanitize additional surfaces. These procedures will be continued to ensure a healthy school environment. Students also receive information from teachers and coaches about how to prevent the spread of disease.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, staphylococcus aureus are bacteria commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people, which can sometimes cause an infection. Staph bacteria are one of the most common causes of skin infections in the United States.

The Center for Disease Control also offers the following recommendations to help prevent the spread of staph infections:

- Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or by using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer**
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed**
- Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages**
- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels, razors, make-up, hats and Halloween masks and wigs.**

For more information, visit the Center for Disease Control website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/ar/MRSAPatientInfoSheet.pdf> or view a document from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services available at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov/MRSA/MRSASchools.pdf>