



October 2007

The Osceola County Health Department has received several inquiries from schools and parents about MRSA. In response we have put some facts together to share with interested parties,

What is MRSA?

MRSA is a staph (staphylococcus aureus) infection that is resistant to certain antibiotics such as penicillin, amoxicillin, oxacillin, and a few others.

What is staph?

Staph is bacteria commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people. Sometimes staph will cause an infection. It is the most common cause of skin infections in the United States. Most of these skin infections are minor and can be treated without antibiotics. However, staph bacteria can also cause serious infections such as wound infections, blood stream infections, and pneumonia.

Who gets MRSA?

Most cases of MRSA used to be confined to healthcare facilities. Increasingly, MRSA is found to cause illness in persons outside of healthcare facilities and in community settings. Those are identified as community associated or acquired MRSA(CA-MRSA). Most infections in the community are usually skin infections such as pimples or boils and occur in otherwise healthy people. They can be red, swollen, painful, and could have pus or other drainage.

Are staph and MRSA infections treatable?

Yes, most are treated with antibiotics if you are given antibiotics it is important to take all the prescribed doses. You should see your healthcare provider for appropriate diagnosis and treatment.

Can I prevent staph or MRSA?

You can prevent staph or MRSA by practicing good hygiene

Keep your hands clean frequently with soap and water or an alcohol based sanitizer.

Cover any skin abrasions or wounds with clean dry bandages until healed.

Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.

Avoid sharing personal items such as razors, towels, and clothing or uniforms.

For more info here is a link to Center for Disease Control:

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca_public.html#2

www.fifthguy.com

www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/community/