



Photos taken from saisd.net, Sep 2012



PARENT HANDOUT ON MRSA

OVERVIEW:

MRSA is methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, a potentially dangerous type of bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics and may cause skin and other infections.

SIGNS/SYMPTOMS:

They often first look like spider bites or bumps that are red, swollen, and painful. It may also be warm to the touch or have pus or other drainage. If it severe, it may be accompanied by a fever

HOW TRANSMITTED:

Staph, including MRSA, is usually spread by having direct contact with someone else's infected area.

HOW DIAGNOSED:

A culture is taken from the area and sent to a laboratory for testing.

PREVENTION MEASURES:

To protect yourself and your family, keep hands and skin clean, cover cuts and scrapes, and avoid sharing personal items such as towels or razors.

TREATMENT:

Treatment for MRSA skin infections may include having a healthcare professional drain the infection and, in some cases, prescribe an antibiotic. Do not attempt to drain the infection yourself – doing so could worsen or spread it to others.

COMPLICATIONS:

When treated early, MRSA skin infections usually get better. But if they are not treated, they can be potentially life threatening.

BOTTOM LINE:

- *Wash your hands regularly and keep your skin clean
- * Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered
- * Avoid sharing of personal items like towels or razors
- * Know the signs of MRSA skin infections and get treated early
- * Be sure to take all of the doses medicine given by your doctor

