

## **STAPH INFECTIONS (MRSA)**

Staph (abbreviated) for staphylococcus aureus bacteria is very common, frequently living on skin all the time, but when it enters the human body, usually through an open cut or break in the skin, it can cause infection and problems anywhere in the body. Staph infections are usually pus producing.

Symptoms include:

- pain and swelling around a cut or scraped area of skin.
- Boils or small white-headed pimples around hair follicles
- Swollen lymph nodes in the neck

Call or see your doctor if:

- Pain, swelling or pus forms around a cut or scraped area of skin as the infection could spread quickly into the blood stream
- You have a boll that is very tender, particularly if it has red lines radiating from it, or if you have fever and chills as the infection may have spread.

Prevention:

- Wash your hands often
- Wash all cuts scrapes and wounds with anti-bacterial soap, and keep wounds cleaned and covered until they are healed.
- To avoid the spread, do not share clothes, towels or bed linens. Change these items daily and launder them in hot water and bleach.

***\*Students with suspected staph infections at school will be sent home with a request to see the doctor, and may return to school 24 hours after treatment has begun.***