



October 24, 2007

Special Health Notice

With all the current news about Staph and MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) infections in the news, Orange County Public School district would like to give you some important information about this bacteria, its causes and its treatment:

What is Staph?

Staph is a type of bacteria. It may cause skin infections that look like pimples or boils. Skin infections caused by Staph may be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage.

Who gets Staph infections?

Anyone can get a Staph infection. People are more likely to get a Staph infection if they have:

- Skin-to-skin contact with someone who has a Staph infection
- Contact with items and surfaces that have Staph on them
- Openings in their skin such as cuts or scrapes
- Poor hygiene

How are Staph infections treated?

Treatment for a Staph skin infection may include taking an antibiotic or having a doctor drain the infection.

How do we keep Staph infections from spreading?

- Wash your hands often or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Keep your cuts and scrapes clean and cover them with bandages
- Do not touch other people's cuts or bandages
- Do not share personal items like towels, razors, or sports equipment

OCPS is encouraging students and staff to practice good hand-washing techniques and to wash their hands often. Custodians are doing their part to keep our schools clean. Please follow up at home as well, that all students can remain healthy and infection free. Thank you.

Attached please find important information on MRSA from the CDC and the Orange County Health Department

Orange County Public Schools