

Important Information from Margot Boyd, School Nurse

There have been reported cases of Staph aureus and Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus (MRSA) on some campuses in LISD. Staph is a common germ that many people carry in their nasal passages, under fingernails, or on their skin with no ill effects. MRSA is a type of Staph that has developed antibiotic resistance (certain antibiotics are unable to kill the bacteria). Staph is spread primarily through skin to skin contact or with direct contact to wound drainage through a break in the skin.

Prevention is the best way to avoid the spread of this skin infection. LISD personnel are teaching students that prevention is best accomplished by exercising good hygiene and washing hands frequently with soap and warm water. District departments have worked as a team to develop a central reporting system and implemented a plan of action when cases are reported. This plan of action may include additional cleaning of a facility, a review of current practices to determine if any changes would be beneficial, and an emphasis on educating students to be vigilant about signs and symptoms of these infections.

LISD works in partnership with the Denton County Health Department when there are reports of communicable diseases. Recommendations by the DCHD regarding Staph and MRSA are followed by the district.

Unfortunately, these skin infections have become a part of our daily lives and it is important that we work together to diligently promote and protect the health of our students. Parents are encouraged to review the following links with your student. Our LISD web site has informative information on Staph and MRSA at: www.lisd.net/parents/staphinformation.pdf (English)
www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/antibiotic_reisitanct/educational/Sperguntas.pdf (Spanish)

If you do not have access to this information or have additional questions, please contact your school nurse. LISD values the health of our students and will continue to take appropriate measures to keep them healthy.