Preventing MRSA in Schools
Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus

What is MRSA?
A type of “Staph” infection.
- Often causes skin infections.
- Resistant to a certain group of antibiotics, including penicillin.

How is MRSA Treated?
A healthcare provider may:
- Drain the lesions.
- Give an antibiotic to be taken by mouth.
- Reduce the amount of bacteria on the skin by applying antibiotic cream.

What does it look like?
- A spider bite
- A turf burn
- An abscess
- A boil
- Impetigo

Stop the Spread of MRSA!
- **WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN** with warm, soapy water.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers when soap and water are not available.
- Shower immediately after athletic activities.
- Do not share personal hygiene items (bar soap, towels, razors) or clothing.
- Avoid contact with other people’s skin infections.
- Cover all wounds with a clean, dry bandage.
- Stay home from school and do not participate in contact sports if wound drainage cannot be contained by a bandage.
- Report suspect skin infections to the school nurse or wellness center.
- Frequently wipe down common touch surfaces such as shared desks, keyboards, shared sports equipment, phones, light switches etc.
- Take antibiotics only as prescribed by a healthcare provider.

How do you get MRSA?
- Direct contact with MRSA-infected skin.
- Direct contact with contaminated surfaces like doorknobs, light switches and keyboards.
- Sharing sports equipment.
- Sharing personal hygiene items (bar soap, towels, razors).
- Not having the resources for good personal hygiene.
- Overusing antibiotics or not taking them as prescribed.

For more Information
call 888-295-5156

DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health
Bureau of Epidemiology