



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

Maribel Zayas, BPA, JD, Interim Administrator

October 23, 2007

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Miami-Dade County Health Department understands there may be worry in the community about skin infections caused by MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus). Staphylococcus aureus or "Staph" is a common bacteria that causes skin infections. Some Staph infections such as MRSA have become resistant to *certain* antibiotics. This type of infection may look like pimples, or boils, which may be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage. **If your son or daughter has any of these symptoms, take him or her to a doctor for evaluation.**

Treatment for this infection may include antibiotics and/or draining of the wound by a doctor. If your doctor prescribes antibiotics, be sure to take them as directed. Unless told by a doctor, your son or daughter should not be excluded from attending school.

Conditions that make it easier for MRSA infection to spread include places with crowding, frequent skin-to-skin contact, skin with cuts or scrapes, contaminated items and surfaces, and lack of cleanliness. You can help prevent the spread of this infection by following these steps:

1. Practice good hygiene which includes showering regularly and washing your hands with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand cleanser.
2. Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed and do not touch other people's wounds or bandages.
3. Do not share personal items such as clothes, towels or razors.
4. Keep a clean environment by cleaning surfaces that come into direct contact with people's skin and use a towel when weight training to avoid contact between your skin and the equipment.

If you have questions or concerns please contact the Miami-Dade County Health Department at 305-470-5660 from 8:00AM to 5:00PM on weekdays and after hours including weekends.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent Conte".

Vincent Conte, MD
Assistant Director, Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control



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