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**Message sent to Comprehensive Health Services, from Dr. Vincent Conte Assistant Director, Epidemiology and Disease Control, Miami-Dade County Health Department**

I understand that there may be a concern with Staph infections, particularly the MRSA type of infections. I can assure you that at this point in time, the Miami-Dade County Health Department is not investigating any Staph or MRSA outbreaks, either in the schools or in the community at large. For your information, the State of Florida Department of Health does not require individual cases of MRSA to be reported to us, only if two or more cases develop in and around the same period of time. Consequently, if individual cases of MRSA occur, our office may not be notified, but if two or more cases occur, then we are notified and launch an investigation.

Even though outbreaks of Staph or MRSA can be serious, there are steps to be taken to eliminate their occurrence and spread. The following are some suggested steps to follow to eliminate or to contain any Staph or MRSA infections.

**Key Prevention Messages for Patients with Skin and Soft Tissue Infections and their Close Contacts:**

1. **Keep wounds that are draining covered with clean, dry, bandages.**
2. **Clean hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand gel (if hands are not visibly soiled). Always clean hands immediately after touching infected skin or any item that has come in direct contact with a draining wound.**
3. **Maintain good general hygiene with regular bathing.**
4. **Do not share items that may become contaminated with wound drainage, such as towels, clothing, bedding, bar soap, razors, and athletic equipment that touches the skin.**
5. **Laundry clothing that has come in contact with wound drainage after each use and dry thoroughly.**
6. **If you are not able to keep your wound covered with a clean, dry bandage at all times, do not participate in activities where you have skin to skin contact with other persons (such as athletic activities) until your wound is healed.**
7. **Clean equipment and other environmental surfaces with which multiple individuals have bare skin contact with an over the counter detergent/disinfectant that specifies *Staphylococcus aureus* on the product label and is suitable for the type of surface being cleaned.**

There are also several useful links with the CDC that I have listed that provide a large amount of information about Staph and MRSA infections:

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar\\_mrsa\\_ca.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca.html)

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/ar/MRSAPatientInfoSheet.pdf>

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/ar/CAMRSA\\_ExpMtgStrategies.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/ar/CAMRSA_ExpMtgStrategies.pdf)



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