

STAPH INFECTION PARENT FACT SHEET

PARENT/GUARDIAN

Your child may have been exposed to: STAPH INFECTION

Staphylococcus aureus (*S. aureus* or staph) bacteria are the leading cause of skin and soft tissue infections.

Need to stay home?

Yes, if the child has draining sores that cannot be completely covered or contained with a dry, clean bandage or if the child cannot maintain good hygiene. Also, the child may not return until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment under the direction of a healthcare professional has begun.

No, if child is only colonized.

Symptoms

Your child may have infected areas that are red and warm with or without pus. Examples are boils, impetigo, wound infections of hair follicles. Sometimes the staph bacteria can get into the bloodstream and other body sites and cause severe illness.

Your child may have staph bacteria “colonized” in the nose or skin. This means that the bacteria may be there, but it does not cause infection or harm.

Spread

- By touching contaminated hands, skin drainage, pus, or secretions from the nose.

Contagious Period As long as the infection or colonization is present. A child who has draining infections has more bacteria and is more contagious than a child who is only colonized.

Call your Healthcare Provider If anyone in your home has symptoms. Your doctor will decide what treatment is needed.

Prevention

- Wear disposable gloves when changing bandaged. Wash hands after you touch any draining sores or change bandages. Your child may need help with hand washing.
- Keep wounds clean, dry, and covered with a bandage. Put used bandages in a plastic bag, close the plastic bag, and put it in the trash.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as washcloths, bar soap, combs, razors, or clothing.
- If possible, people with staph infections should do their own first aid on cuts/scrapes. This prevents spread to others.
- Keep contaminated laundry separate from other laundry. Wash clothes, bed sheets, and blankets in hot water with detergent and dry in a hot dryer.
- Clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces or objects. Use a disinfectant that kills *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria.

For more information, please contact your local health department.

[Southern Nevada Health District](#) (Clark County) 775-759-1300 (24 hours)

[Northern Nevada Public Health](#) (Washoe County) 775-328-2447 (24 hours)

[Carson City Health & Human Services](#) (Carson City, Douglas, Lyon Counties) 775-887-2190 (24 hours)

[Division of Public and Behavioral Health](#) (All other Counties) 775-400-0333 (24 hours)

Email: dpbhepi@health.nv.gov