



STAPHYLOCOCCAL (STAPH) INFECTIONS

Date:

Dear Parent:

A child in day care has been diagnosed with a **Staphylococcal infection**. Staphylococcal infections often referred to simply as "staph," are a bacteria commonly found on the skin and in the nose of healthy people. Occasionally, staphylococci can get into the body and cause an infection.

This infection can be minor (such as pimples, boils, and other skin conditions) or serious and sometimes fatal (such as blood infections or pneumonia). Localized staph infection is confined to a ring of dead and dying white blood cells and bacteria. The skin above it feels warm to the touch. Most of these abscesses eventually burst, and pus leaking onto the skin can cause new infections.

Staph bacteria can spread through the air, but infection is almost always the result of direct contact with open sores or body fluids contaminated by these organisms.

A family physician should be notified whenever: A boil or carbuncle appears on any part of the face or spine) staph infections affecting these areas can spread to the brain or spinal cord); a boil becomes very sore is usually a sign that infection has spread and may be accompanied by fever, chills, and red streaks radiating from the site of the original infection; boils which develop repeatedly which could be a symptom of diabetes.

Children with symptoms of a staphylococcal infection will be excluded from the childcare facility until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has begun.

Wear gloves and practice good hand washing before and after contact with infectious body tissues.

If you have any questions, please call your Health District.