

Irion County ISD
P.O. Box 469
Mertzon, Texas 76941
(325) 835-6111 fax (325) 835-2017

Brenda Mendiola
Superintendent
325-835-6111

Billy Barnett
High School Principal
325-835-2881

Jeanette Hobbs
Elementary Principal
325-835-3991

Dear Parent:

Hardly a day passes without a new case of Staph infection reported in a public school. At this point, Irion Co ISD has no reported cases. However, that does not mean we are immune from the possibility. We host many school activities on campus for our students and those from visiting schools. Rest assured we are taking steps to try to prevent an outbreak on our campus.

These are the precautions we are taking:

1. Installing hand sanitizer dispensers in restrooms and dressing rooms.
2. Educating students and staff about infection prevention.
3. Using sanitizing spray in dressing rooms and bathrooms in addition to the normal cleaning.
4. Sanitizing surfaces frequently used by students (desktops for example).
5. Posting additional hand washing signs to remind students and staff to wash hands.
6. Providing band aids for students with uncovered wounds.
7. Washing athletic practice clothes in hot water daily. Washing uniforms after each game.
8. Cleaning athletic items such as ice chests and water bottles with a disinfectant solution.
9. Spraying athletic equipment with disinfectant spray.

Please talk with your children about preventive measures they need to take. These include: frequent hand washing; not sharing towels, clothes, or other items; wearing shower shoes in locker rooms and showers; and reporting any suspicious sores.

Preventing infection is a responsibility we all share. Please let us know if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions about the precautions we are taking.

Have a safe and healthy holiday season!

Sincerely,

Brenda Mendiola
Superintendent

ICISD Staph Infection Information from Nurse Feller

Recently, cases of skin infections caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* (Staph) have been identified in the news causing quite a bit of concern. Skin infections such as abscesses and boils are the most common form of these infections. The infection usually starts out as a small bump resembling a pimple or spider bite, which becomes redder and often develops pus drainage. The information below provides some general information about these types of infections and what people can do to prevent and control the spread of Staph infections in the community setting.

Staph can spread through the air, on contaminated surfaces, and from person to person. Hand washing is the most important way to prevent Staph infections. You can also prevent Staph infections by keeping your child's skin clean with a daily bath or shower. If your child has a skin condition such as eczema that makes frequent bathing difficult, speak with your doctor for advice. Keep areas of the skin that have been injured-such as cuts, scrapes, and rashes-clean and covered, and use any other treatments that your doctor suggests.

Call the doctor whenever your child has an area of red, irritated, or painful skin, especially if you see whitish pus-filled areas or your child has a fever or feels sick. Also, call the doctor if skin infections seem to be passing from one family member to another or if two or more family members have skin infections at the same time.

Most localized Staph skin infections can be treated by washing the skin with an antibacterial cleanser, applying an antibiotic ointment prescribed by a doctor, and covering the skin with a clean dressing. For most serious Staph infections, your child's doctor may prescribe an antibiotic for your child. If so, give the antibiotics on schedule for as many days as your doctor directs.

Follow these health and hygiene practices listed below to help prevent and control the spread of Staph:

1. Wash hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer.
2. Avoid sharing personal items (towels, razors, clothing).
3. Report any suspicious skin sore or boil to your healthcare provider or school nurse immediately.
4. If child participates in sports involving close personal contact, shower immediately after each practice, game, or match.
5. Individuals with an infection involving drainage who are involved in close contact sports should be excluded from participation in sporting events and practices until no pus drainage is present and the infected site can be adequately covered with a bandage and clothing.
6. Any cut or break in the skin should be washed with soap and water and a clean, dry dressing applied on a daily basis.
7. Tell your healthcare provider and the appropriate athletic personnel if child currently has or has had a history of an antibiotic-resistant Staph infection.