



## Staph Infection (*Staphylococcus Aureus*)

Date:

Dear Parent/Guardian:

A student in your child's classroom has been reported as having a staph infection. *Staphylococcus aureus*, often referred to simply as "staph," are bacteria commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people. Approximately 25% to 30% of the population have this bacteria present, but it does not cause an infection.

However, sometimes staph can cause an infection. Staph bacteria are one of the most common causes of skin infections in the United States. Most of these skin infections are minor (such as pimples and boils) and can be treated without antibiotics (also known as antimicrobials or antibacterials). However, staph bacteria can also cause serious infections (such as surgical wound infections, bloodstream infections, and pneumonia).

### **When to Seek Medical Advice**

Keep an eye on minor skin problems such as pimples, insect bites, cuts and scrapes, especially in children. If wounds become infected, see your doctor.

Most often, doctors diagnose staph infections by checking a tissue sample or nasal secretions for signs of the bacteria. The sample is then sent to a lab where it is tested for the appropriate antibiotic to treat the infection. Although there are staph infections which no longer respond to common antibiotics, most staph infections can still be successfully treated.

### **Return to School**

Should any of the above symptoms appear, call and consult with your physician. In order to guard the health of your child and others, your child may return to school when your physician provides a written clearance which states your child is well and can attend school.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### Child Development Preschool Nurses

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