

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.

If you think your child has a Staph Infection:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- **Need to stay home?**

Childcare and School:

Yes, if draining sores cannot be completely covered and contained with a clean, dry bandage.

No, if child is only colonized.

Activities:

Avoid activities where skin-to-skin contact is likely to occur until sores are healed. This means no contact sports.

Symptoms

Your child may have infected areas that are red and warm with or without pus. Examples are boils, impetigo, wound infections, and 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 on skin. This means that the bacteria may be there but it does not cause infection or harm.

If your child is infected, the time it will take for symptoms to start will vary by type of infection.

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 bandages. Wash hands after you touch any draining sores or change bandages. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- 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

Kentucky Department for Public Health Frankfort, KY
 Kentucky Regional Poison Center Louisville, KY
 Lake Cumberland District Health Department Somerset, KY
 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta, GA

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/>
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www.lcdhd.org (606) 678-4761
 Toll free: 1-800-311-3435 www.cdc.gov