

## **Montessori School of Maui Staph Policy**

If you believe your child may have a staph infection, do not send them to school until you have consulted with a medical provider.

If your child is diagnosed with a confirmed case of Staph they will need written authorization from their medical provider for them to attend school.

The wounds need to be properly wrapped at all times to help stem the spread of Staph to other students. Your child will need to be brought to the Main Office daily to have the wrapping checked to be sure that the wound will remain covered throughout the entire school day.

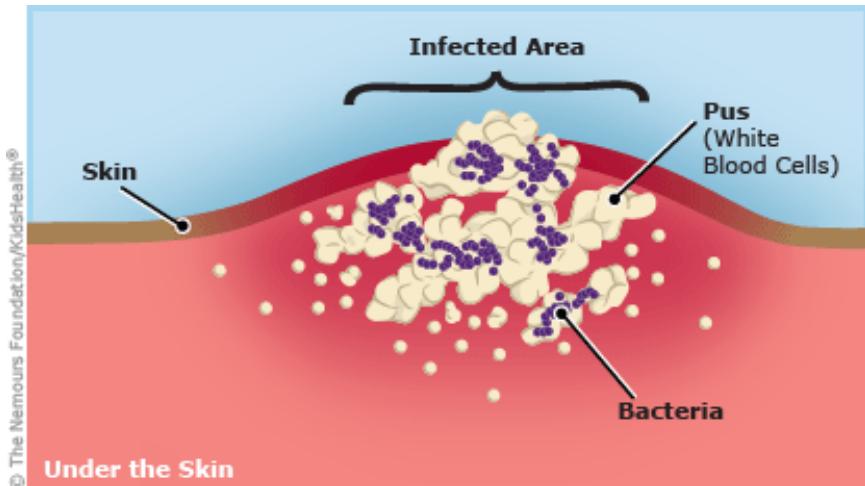
These steps will remain in place until a written release from your medical provider stating that the wound is no longer contagious is handed in to the Main Office.

By diligently following these rules, we will help minimize any spread of infection to others.

## About Staph Infections

Staph infections are caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria. Many healthy people carry these bacteria on their skin and in their noses without getting sick. But when skin is punctured or broken, staph bacteria can enter the wound and cause infections, which can lead to other health problems.

For more information about staph infections please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/> or <http://www.webmd.com/>.



You can help prevent staph infections in your family by encouraging regular hand washing and daily bathing, and by keeping injured skin clean and covered.

### How Staph Infections Spread

Staph bacteria can spread through contaminated surfaces and from person to person. Kids can carry staph bacteria from one area of their body to another — or pass it to other people — via dirty hands or fingernails. So good hand washing is vital to preventing staph infections.

It's also important to encourage kids to keep their skin clean with a daily bath or shower. If your child has a skin condition such as eczema that makes regular bathing difficult, ask your doctor for advice.

Make sure to keep areas of injured skin — such as cuts, scrapes, and rashes caused by allergic reactions or poison ivy — clean and covered, and follow any directions given by your doctor.

## **HAND WASHING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP IN PREVENTING ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

Correct hand washing technique for you and your child:

When should you wash your and your child's hands?

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- After any contact with your or your child's nose, mouth, eyes, groin, anus, blood, or bodily fluids (includes sneezing, coughing, blowing your nose, rubbing your eyes, eating, using the restroom, etc.).
- Before and after caring for someone who is sick
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- After touching garbage
- Before coming to and leaving school
- Anytime hands are visibly dirty

### **How should you wash your hands?**

- **Wet** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
- **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- **Scrub** your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- **Rinse** your hands well under clean, running water.
- **Dry** your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

### **What should you do if you don't have soap or clean, running water?**

Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to reduce the number of germs on them in most situations. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in some situations, but sanitizers do **not** eliminate all types of germs.

**Hand sanitizers are not as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy.**

### **How do you use hand sanitizers?**

- Apply the product to the palm of one hand (read the label to learn the correct amount).
- Rub your hands together.
- Rub the product over all surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry.

### **SOME OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE:**

- Draining wounds should be kept covered.
- Other children should not come into contact with a child's infection or wound.
- Non-contact activities are permissible if the wound is covered at all times and the child practices good hygiene—frequent hand washing, showering, and clean clothes. Contact activities should be suspended until the wound is completely healed. Utensils, dishes, clothes, and other laundry should be washed normally with hot water and normal detergents. Laundry should be dried on the hottest setting.
- Clean non-sterile gloves should be used by employees caring for the child's wound or infection.
- Change gloves when moving from one body site to another or from one child to another.
- Discourage the sharing of personal care items, towels, sheets, etc.
- Use liquid soap instead of shared bar soap that is mild and non-irritating.