

# MRSA ...

## Measured Response - Sensible Action

### Staph infection a problem in Dallas-Fort Worth area schools

Staphylococcus aureus, a bacterium that causes skin infections, is spreading in Dallas-Fort Worth area schools, according to health officials. The Dallas Morning News reports that the bacteria is spreading in schools across the state. Health officials in Texas have been monitoring the situation since 2005. The bacteria is not dangerous to most people, but it can cause serious infections in some people, especially those with weakened immune systems. The Dallas County Health Department officials said that there have been about 100 cases of staph infections in schools in Dallas County since 2005. The bacteria is most commonly found in the nose and on the skin of healthy people. It can be spread through direct contact with an infected person or through contact with contaminated surfaces. Health officials recommend that schools take steps to prevent the spread of staph infections, such as teaching students to wash their hands frequently and covering their cuts and sores.

### Staph Hits School Gym Locker Rooms

Arizona Researchers Work On Staph Detection While Outbreaks Are Reported Across U.S.

Thursday, October 18, 2007 - Troy, Mich. (CRS/AP) School gym locker rooms all over the country are suspected to be the breeding ground for staph infections, including an antibiotic-resistant strain, that are causing school districts to take new precautions, sterilize locker rooms and close gyms. A Detroit-area high school football player has been diagnosed with a drug-resistant staph infection and eight of his teammates reported a similar rash, the school district says. As a result, Troy High School closed its physical education and varsity locker rooms, weight and training rooms, and interior walls on Wednesday so they could be disinfected, local media report. The scare comes after a 17-year-old high school senior in Bedford, Va., died Monday after being diagnosed with MRSA or methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus. In North Carolina, officials say at least six football players at East Forsyth High School have the antibiotic-resistant staph infection. School officials say the first case was confirmed in early September. East Forsyth officials are sanitizing all locker rooms, cleaning sports equipment, and requiring all student athletes to shower. Outbreaks continued around the country. River High School have been treated recently for staph infections. James River activities director Doug Bachman said the first case at the Chesterfield County school was in August and the most recent was about three weeks ago. Infections have been recently reported in school districts in states including Missouri, Illinois, Ohio and Florida. Meanwhile, Northern Arizona University researchers say they've discovered a new way to detect staph infections, including the deadly antibiotic-resistant MRSA. They tell researchers that the bacteria is spreading in schools across the state.

### Superbug Scare: Virginia District's Schools Scrubbed; Teen Not First to Succumb to Deadly Infection

Wednesday, October 17, 2007 - FOX NEWS  
All 21 schools in Loudoun County, Va., were sanitized Wednesday by a 17-year-old student with a powerful bacteria. The schools were closed for a week. One of its students, Ashton Bonds, died Monday after being hospitalized for several days. In recent years, so-called superbug staph infections have been spreading through schools, hospitals, prisons and homes, CDC officials said. PHOENIX - Arizona has recorded just over 900 cases of MRSA, a strain of staph bacteria resistant to antibiotics, so far this year through Oct. 11, the Arizona Department of Health Services said. MRSA is short for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus. Maricopa County has had 640 cases, followed by Pima County with 209 cases, the department said. It's estimated that 32 of every 100,000 Americans will get infected, an "astounding" number, according to state health officials. The district responded with mass disinfecting and sanitized all of their facilities for three weeks. It also sent letters to parents stressing the importance of hygiene. "We had to make sure kids washed their hands," said Chris Pletenski, with the district's health department. A staff member at Phoenix Union High School District had the infection about a month and a half ago, according to state health officials. The infection can be spread by skin-to-skin contact or sharing an item used with an infected person, particularly one with an open wound. In Bedford County, Va., schools are undergoing a cleaning following the death Monday of a 17-year-old high school student who was diagnosed with MRSA. Staph infections, including the serious MRSA strain, have been spreading in schools nationwide in recent years.

### 970+ Cases Of 'Superbug' Statewide

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### MRSA and Influenza

MRSA, or Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus, is a staph bacteria that is resistant to standard antibiotic treatment. Recently, it has caught the media's attention, but has been a factor in facility management for some time.

1. MRSA incidence is on the rise. Facility managers need to also be aware of the prevalence of Influenza.

#### 2006 Statistics:

MRSA: 94,000 acute infections  
19,000 deaths  
FLU: 200,000 hospitalizations  
36,000 deaths

2. MRSA is spread by skin-to-skin contact or touching surfaces that have MRSA bacteria on them.
3. There are two types of MRSA. One is hospital-acquired and referred to as HA-MRSA. The other is community acquired, or CA-MRSA.
4. Both HA-MRSA and CA-MRSA continue to evolve and change, making them resistant to some drug therapies.

### MRSA Treatment

CA-MRSA most often causes mild skin infections. It can cause more serious skin infections or infections within the body, but these cases are quite rare.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, almost all MRSA skin infections can be effectively treated by your doctor. Treatment may include the draining of the infected site and an antibiotic specifically developed for MRSA.

### MRSA Symptoms

MRSA can look like a common spider bite, turf burn, boil, rash, ingrown hair, impetigo, infected skin or infected wound. Typically, it is found in the area of armpits, groin, neck, and buttocks.

Other symptoms can include unexplained fever, muscular pain, or fatigue, especially in the several months following a skin infection.

### MRSA Prevention

1. Educate your facility managers and personnel about recognizing MRSA.
2. Implement a hand washing initiative and training program for aggressive hand washing and hand sanitizing.
  - Surfaces must be cleaned before applying disinfectant.
  - Use of disinfectants should be reserved only for surfaces touched by skin.
  - Disinfectant must be given proper dwell time to perform.
  - Environmentally preferred products provide better indoor air quality and will not burden an individual's immune system.
3. Implement a 2-step cleaning program that uses standard infection control procedures.

# 2-2-2 MRSA System



EPA registration #69268-2  
US Patent #6,316,399

EPA registration #72977-3-69268

## Two Products

### H<sub>2</sub>Orange<sup>2</sup>® 117 Multi-Purpose Cleaner-Sanitizer-Virucide-HBV:

- Cleans and sanitizes.
- Kills 99.9% of Influenza A2/Japan virus.\*
- Prepares surfaces for additional disinfecting.

### Critical Care™ Disinfectant-Fungicide-Virucide:

- Kills MRSA in 2 minutes.
- Odorless, Ready-to-Use.
- 30-second immediate disinfection on common bacteria and HIV Type-1.
- 24-hour residual kill on common bacteria.

\* Also kills 99.99% of Staphylococcus aureus (staph), Salmonella choleraesuis, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Streptococcus faecalis, and E-coli.



## Two Steps

Proper disinfecting is a two-step process. First, the surface must be cleaned of surface dirt and any organic material.

Second, a sanitizer or disinfectant must be applied and allowed to dwell for the appropriate amount of time according to the manufacturer's directions.



## Two Minutes

Critical Care delivers a fast two-minute kill on MRSA and VRE.\*\*

\*\* Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus faesium. See label for complete list of fungi, viruses, and bacteria.

NOTE: The EPA prohibits antimicrobial products, such as H<sub>2</sub>Orange<sup>2</sup> 117, to use Green Seal or similar endorsements or statements.

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