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## Be a hero!

### *HPS teams up with US Chemical to protect against MRSA*

Superman and Superwoman are known to save the world from disasters. But even two famous superheroes can not stop the superbug from spreading.

The superbug, otherwise known as Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus or more commonly referred to as MRSA, is bacteria that can cause serious infections and is resistant to many antibiotics like penicillin and methicillin.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 90,000 Americans are infected each year by MRSA—and nearly 19,000 of these cases are fatal.

Most MRSA outbreaks are skin infections such as boils, cellulitis and abscesses. The major concern is MRSA can spread to almost any organ of the body. When this occurs, severe symptoms develop, and the disease becomes more life threatening.

The two major causes of MRSA are physical contact with someone infected, and physically touching objects such as doorknobs, floors, sinks or towels that have been handled by an infected person. Normal skin tissue does not allow MRSA to form, but cuts, abrasions or skin flaws can make people more susceptible to outbreak.

#### **10 steps to prevent MRSA in the classroom**

1. Encourage students to clean their hands frequently
2. Parents, tuck a small container of hand sanitizer in your child's book bag, if your child is mature enough to use it properly.
3. Educators, install dispensers of hand-sanitizer inside each classroom. Students should not have to get a hall pass and leave the classroom to clean their hands.
4. Warn students not to share gym clothes, towels, and other personal items. MRSA bacteria can live on fabrics and hard surfaces for up to ninety days.
5. Warn students against sharing bars of soap. Use pump dispensers only.
6. Educators, ensure that all shared sports equipment (wrestling mats, baseball gloves, gymnastics equipment) and locker room facilities such as benches are cleaned with detergents, which must remain on the surfaces for at least three minutes. Quickly spraying and wiping is not effective.
7. Educators, make sure that when a student gets a cut or abrasion on the playground or in class, it is cleaned immediately by someone whose hands are also clean! Classrooms should have a first-aid kit or ready access to the help of a school nurse.
8. School authorities should investigate the anti-microbial coatings available for use on sports equipment and other high-touch surfaces, and washable keyboards for computers.
9. School authorities should periodically have surfaces in the gym and classrooms cultured, to know the extent of MRSA contamination.
10. Athletes, gym teachers, and coaches should be given extra awareness tools to reduce their heightened risk of exposure to MRSA.



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With physical contact the number one way to contract the disease, people who are in close quarters—most often children in day care centers or schools, or patients at a hospital or health care facility—are more at risk for the disease.

To prevent MRSA infection, good sanitation is key. All public facilities are susceptible and U.S. Chemical is taking responsibility in providing the information and products needed to rid facilities of this problem.

As an HPS member you have the opportunity not only to save money but to save lives and prevent infection of this disease through Gordon Food Service with U.S. Chemical and their Array products with MRSA kill claims.

- Quat Clean—Reorder # 666807
- Germicidal D—Reorder # 204927
- Neutral Quat—Reorder # 570486
- TB Quat—Reorder # 703559
- Disinfectant Deodorizer—Reorder # 596167

Be a hero! Create a safe, sanitized environment today and help defeat the superbug. For more information, call Katie Hayward at the HPS office, (800) 632-4572 or e-mail, [khayward@hpsnet.com](mailto:khayward@hpsnet.com).