

Staph Infection Containment in Private Homes

The Texas Department of State Health Services Infectious Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology Branch has provided this document as a summary checklist of actions to be taken in the event that a staphylococcal infection occurs at a particular site in the community. The document is based on current best practices in infection control. While the Infectious Disease Branch recommends these practices and can consult in their implementation, it does not regulate them.

Education and Training

- “PREVENTION AND CONTAINMENT OF STAPHYLOCOCCAL INFECTIONS IN COMMUNITIES*” is available.
- Everyone has received hand hygiene training and can demonstrate procedure.
- Training material is available to everyone. (See “What to do about Your Skin Infection*.”)
- Persons responsible for changing bandages know how to change them. (See “Taking Care of Wounds that are Draining or Have Not Healed*.”)
- Verbal training in the appropriate language and educational level has been done.

Implementation of Containment Procedures-Infection Care

- _____ (person’s name) knows who to contact (healthcare provider, health department representative) in the event that an infection becomes worse or additional household members develop infection.
- Persons with draining infections that cannot be contained by simple bandages are being seen by a healthcare provider.
- Infected persons are restricted from situations that might bring the infection or drainage in contact with other persons or personal items or that would result in the infected area becoming exposed, wet (yard work, scrubbing, swimming or other water play) or soiled.
- Infected persons have infections securely covered with a clean, dry bandage. Clothing should cover the bandage if possible.
- Persons responsible for changing bandages have access to all needed supplies including clean, non-sterile gloves, soap, water, bandage, and plastic trash bag.
- Physician-prescribed antibiotics are stored as described on the antibiotic label or as instructed by the pharmacy.

Implementation of Containment Procedures – Hygiene

- Everyone performs hand hygiene at appropriate times and places (kitchen, bathroom, or laundry area).
- The household has running water, bar soap for individual use or liquid soap, and towels for individual use or paper towels.
- Persons carry hand sanitizer for use when soap and water are not available.
- Persons do not share personal items (towels, soap, razors, nail clippers, make-up, shampoo)
- Everyone showers at least daily.
- Uninfected persons do not use the same bed as an infected person.
- Infected family members use a designated chair that is easily disinfected (not upholstered.)
- Precautions are taken to prevent any situations that might bring the infection or infection drainage into contact with companion animals.

Implementation of Containment Procedures – Laundry

- The household has access to a functioning washer and dryer, laundry detergent and bleach.
- Infected family member’s clothing and linens are washed separately from uninfected family members’ laundry.
- Clothing and linens are washed with detergent appropriate to water temperature.
- Bleach is used when possible.
- Clothing and linens are dried thoroughly at highest heat fabric can tolerate.

Implementation of Containment Procedures – Environmental Surfaces

- Prevent transmission of bacteria between household members and companion animals.
- _____ (person’s name) is responsible for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Initial thorough cleaning and disinfecting of all environmental surfaces has been done with EPA-approved disinfectant.
- All sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, and rugs are laundered as soon as an infection is identified.
- Cleaners and disinfectants are available but out of reach of children.
- Trash receptacles are accessible for disposal of cleaning materials.
- Toilets, showers, bathtubs, and sinks are disinfected after use by infected person and before any other person uses them.
- All high touch surfaces (door knobs, counter/desk tops, phones, toys, remote controls, utensils) are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with an EPA-approved disinfectant daily.
- Items that cannot be disinfected (such as a cracked seat pad) have been discarded.

*All resources mentioned in this checklist, as well as more detailed information about prevention and containment of staphylococcal infections, are available at the Texas Department of State Health Services website at www.mrsaTexas.org or by calling (512) 458-7676 and asking for information about staph.