Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) are Staphylococcus aureus (staph) bacteria with resistance to some antibiotics. When bacteria are antibiotic resistant, it means that an antibiotic will not kill the bacteria.

**Symptoms:**
An area of skin infection that may be red and warm. There may be pus or drainage. These infections commonly occur where children have cuts and scrapes. Examples include boils, impetigo, cellulitis and wound infections. People may be “colonized” with staph bacteria in their nose or on their skin. This means that the bacteria are there without causing any infection or any harm. If your child is infected, the time it will take for symptoms to start will vary by type of infection.

**Spread**
- By contact with hands, skin drainage, pus or secretions from the nose.

**Contagious Period**
As long as the bacteria are 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.