

Conn. Students Contract 'Superbug' Staph Infection

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More concerns about staph infections. At least two [Connecticut high school students](#) have been diagnosed with a potentially deadly infection. And crews have been cleaning a high school locker room and gym in [Richmond, Indiana](#), after a student developed an infection. Officials are treating it as if it's the strain that was blamed for the death of a Virginia high school senior.

A growing number of school districts are reporting the so-called "super bug" infections in students -- staph infections that can be potentially deadly.

The infection, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, also known as [MRSA](#), has become a hot topic in the news recently after a student in Virginia died from the infection. Many in [Weston](#) are understandably concerned to learn there's one confirmed and one suspected case at the high school.

School and [health](#) officials point out that almost 1,000 MRSA cases were reported in Connecticut last year and the state [epidemiologist](#) says "every school has at least several of them per year, and maybe more."

Weston, Conn. School Superintendent Dr. John Reed says students who are

properly diagnosed, treated, and who take precautions will not be barred from school. "Patients are out and about among us," he says.

Some simple steps can help everyone avoid coming down with MRSA. That means keeping hands clean by using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizers; keeping cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage; avoiding contact with other people's wounds or bandages; and avoiding sharing personal items such as towels or razors.

"Do not share personal belongings such as clothing, athletic equipment, even soap if they're taking showers in the school," says Health Director Monica Wheeler.

Weston parents are warning their children to play it smart so they can keep healthy. Debbie Friedman tells CbS station WCBS-TV that she told her daughter to be cautious.

"She should just not touch too many people. You know they like to hug and kiss, I said [she should] just wash her hands. What are you gonna do? Gotta keep them safe," Friedman says.

The New York City Department of Education did not say if MRSA is present in city schools because staph infection cases are not required to be reported, something the Health Department wants to change.

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