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Staph infection hits Cholla High School



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Cholla High School warns parents of staph infection
TUCSON - A student at a Pima County school is diagnosed with a staph infection. Now, school leaders are putting out a warning.

The student at Cholla High School was diagnosed Tuesday. Friday a letter was sent to parents about the infection. The letter explains staph infections and points out that it has not yet been determined if it's MRSA. It also explains the precautions the school is taking, including cleaning areas with which the infected student often comes in contact. Cholla High School has about 750 students. Only one was found to have a staph infection but doctors say that's enough to cause worry.

Dr. Sean Elliott the Medical Director of Infection Prevention at UMC said, "Having one student, especially if it's a student athlete with close physical contact with other athletes there is potential for transfer or for it being contagious." The school said it's cleaning certain high traffic areas but doctors said the school can only do so much.

Elliott said, "The school can clean shared equipment or clean locker room floor but it's far more affective for each athlete or each student themselves to do their own hand hygiene. The school did send out a letter to make everyone aware, but some parents are angry that it came three days after the infection was found.

Darlene Ortiz has two daughters at Cholla High School. She said, "I'm upset because I'm just getting this [letter] now and it already happened at the beginning of the week. As parents we should be notified the day it happens. Not a couple days later or a week later. That's putting our students here in jeopardy."

But doctors said though it is a real concern there's no reason for concern. Elliott said, "Hysteria is not necessary. This is not a flesh eating germ that will kill people. This is a contagious organism just like the flu that we can protect ourselves against."

The district declined to do an interview but they did send KVOA News 4 Tucson a copy of the letter sent to parents. Then after hearing from parents, the district said it's looking into it, but never got back to us.

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Colossians 1: 9-14