

What is MRSA?

Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*

Methicillin – a type of medication called an antibiotic

Resistant – some medications do not work to cure or kill this bacteria

Staphylococcus aureus (staf-i-lo-kok'kus o-re-us) – a type of bacteria that lives on the skin and in the nose of many people

MRSA is a type of bacteria that may cause sickness or infection. Bacteria are germs so small they can not be seen by the human eye.

Why is it important?

Many antibiotics can not kill MRSA so it is harder for people to be treated once they become infected with this type of bacteria. A person does not have to show symptoms to spread the bacteria to someone else.

Where did MRSA come from?

Staphylococcus aureus does not always cause an infection. Over the years some *Staphylococcus aureus* has changed and become harder to treat. Some common antibiotics no longer work to kill an infection when it occurs. This is what is known as resistance. MRSA is a type of resistant bacteria.



How will I know if I have MRSA?

Many people may not have any symptoms. If you do, they may include any of the following:

- Fever, redness, pain, draining from a wound**
- Bladder infections**
- Respiratory infections (Pneumonia)**
- Skin infections (boils, impetigo, eczema)**
- Draining ears**

How can I be treated?

Not all infections need to be treated with medications.

If the infection is in a sore or wound, keep it clean by washing the area several times each day with soap and water. Different treatments will be used for different types of infections. Follow the directions given by your doctor or nurse. They will decide if you need medicine to treat your infection.

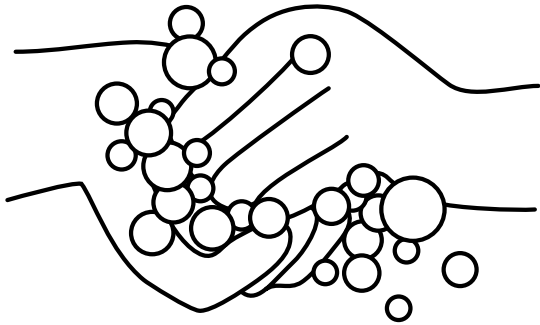
How do I prevent MRSA from spreading to others?

The best way to stop MRSA from spreading is to wash your hands often. If you have an infection, keep yourself and your house clean. Follow the directions given to you from your doctor or nurse on whether or not the infection site will need to be covered. Remember to use antibiotics wisely. Only use antibiotics when they are given to you by your doctor or nurse. Take the medicine until it is all used up and do not share your medicine with others. Remember that not all infections need to be treated with antibiotics.

What can we do as a community?

Make hand washing easy at schools, daycares, recreation facilities, work, and at home.

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Notes:

MRSA Information

