

MRSA

What is MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus)?

A type of bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics and can cause skin infections, pneumonia, or infections of the blood.

MRSA is spread by:

1. Direct contact with another person's infection
2. Sharing personal items that have touched infected skin (towels, razors, blankets, etc.)
3. Touching surfaces or items that have been contaminated with MRSA (bed linens, bed rails, door handles, medical equipment, etc.)

Signs and Symptoms

A bump or infected area on the skin that may be:

- Red
- Swollen
- Painful
- Warm to the touch
- Full of pus or other drainage
- Accompanied by a fever

Treatment

- Cover the area with a bandage and contact a healthcare professional.
- The healthcare professional may drain the infection and prescribe an antibiotic.

- Never try to drain an infection yourself because it could worsen the wound or spread it to others. Take all doses of an antibiotic until your doctor tells you to stop. Never stop an antibiotic even if the infection seems to be getting better.

Prevention

- Know the signs of MRSA and get treated early
- Clean cuts and scrapes and keep them covered
- Wash hands regularly
- Do not share personal items with others

At Risk

- People who have been in hospitals, nursing homes, or other health care settings
- People involved in contact sports
- Child care workers
- People who live in crowded areas

NOTE: Keep an eye on minor skin problems like pimples, insect bites, cuts, or scrapes. These wounds could worsen if infected with the bacteria.



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