



## Infectious Diseases Fact Sheet

### Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)

#### What is MRSA?

A type of staphylococcus bacteria that has developed resistance to many of the antibiotics commonly used to treat staph infections. Once a person is infected with MRSA, the choice of effective anti antibiotics is very limited.



#### Symptoms

Generally start as swollen, painful red bumps that might look like pimples or spider bites. The affected area might be:

- warm to the touch
- full of pus or other drainage
- accompanied by a fever



These red bumps can quickly turn into deep, painful boils (abscesses) that require surgical draining. Sometimes the bacteria remain confined to the skin. But they can also burrow deep into the body, causing potentially life-threatening infections in bones, joints, surgical wounds, the bloodstream, heart valves and lungs.

#### How does MRSA spread?

Spread through physical contact. People have MRSA in their noses can spread the bacteria just by touching the nose and then someone else.



#### How is MRSA treated?

Carriers do not need treatment. Some antibiotics can cure MRSA infections. It is important to take all of the doses of the antibiotic even if the infection is getting better. Tell the doctor if the infection does not get better in a few days or if it begins to feel worse.

#### How can MRSA be prevented?

- practise good hygiene. wash hands often with soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer
- keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed



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- avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages
- avoid sharing personal items, such as towels, washcloths, razors, or clothes
- wash soiled sheets, towels, and clothes in hot water with bleach and dry in a hot dryer



### Reference

MRSA (September, 2016). Retrieved December 10, 2020 from <https://medlineplus.gov/mrsa.html>

MRSA infection (December, 2020). Retrieved December 10, 2020 from <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/mrsa/symptoms-causes/syc-20375336>