

Information About MRSA

What is MRSA? (Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*)

MRSA is a type of 'staph' bacteria. The MRSA bacteria can cause a skin infection that is resistant to certain antibiotics, which makes it more difficult to treat.

What are the symptoms or MRSA?

The most common symptoms are skin infections that look like pimples or boils. They may be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage.

How is MRSA spread?

Anyone can get a Staph infection. People are more likely to get a Staph infection if they have:

- Skin-to-skin contact with someone who has a Staph infection
- Contact with items and surfaces (i.e. shower floors, door knobs, phones) that have Staph bacteria on them
- Openings in their skin such as cuts or scrapes
- Crowded living conditions
- Poor hygiene

What can I do to prevent MRSA from spreading?

Practice good hygiene:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage.
- Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.
- Do not share personal items such as towels, razors, bars of soap, wash cloths and clothing.

Clean and disinfect surfaces such as door knobs and phones with warm water and soap, diluted bleach, Lysol, or Original Pine Sol.

How is MRSA diagnosed and treated?

- A healthcare provider will diagnose MRSA by culturing the infected site.
- Treatment may include taking an antibiotic and/or having a healthcare provider drain the infection.
- If you are prescribed an antibiotic, be sure to take all of the doses, even if the infection is getting better, unless your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking it. Do not share antibiotics with other people or save them to use later.

If you experience any of these symptoms, contact the
UNC Student Health Center or your health care provider

For more information, please visit: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa.html