

OTHER COMMON QUESTIONS:

How should my facility be cleaned to prevent MRSA infections?

- Generally, no special cleaning products or procedures are needed for MRSA.
- Appropriate cleaners include a 1 to 100 bleach to water solution or another EPA-registered disinfectant*.
 - * 1/4 cup of bleach to 1 gallon water. 1 Tbsp bleach to 1 gallon water for kitchen utensils, food prep surfaces and toys that can be put into mouth.
- Be sure to clean frequently contacted surfaces (doorknobs, light switches, etc.)
- Be sure to follow the product's instructions closely, including sanitation/disinfecting times.

Should my location be closed if someone has MRSA?

According to the CDC:

- It is not necessary to close schools or child care centers to disinfect for MRSA.
- If you suspect a MRSA outbreak, **contact your local health department.**

Should student or staff with MRSA be excluded?

The CDC recommends that:

- Students and staff diagnosed with MRSA should be excluded only if

the infection cannot be covered and contained.

- Those with active infections should be excluded from activities with skin-to-skin contact.

Should my childcare facility send a letter home when someone is diagnosed with MRSA?

YES - the Child Care Rules State:

- Parents must be notified if their child has been exposed to a communicable disease - each program has a policy on how this communication is made.

QUICK FACTS:

- Anyone can get a MRSA skin infection.
- Infections are not spread through the air; it is spread most frequently by direct skin-to-skin contact.
- If you think you have a MRSA skin infection, seek medical care right away. A test called a culture is the only way to know for sure.
- Most MRSA skin infections are treatable with antibiotics. If you are given antibiotics, be sure to finish all of your medicine.

For More Information Contact:

Stark County Health Department

3969 Convenience Circle, NW

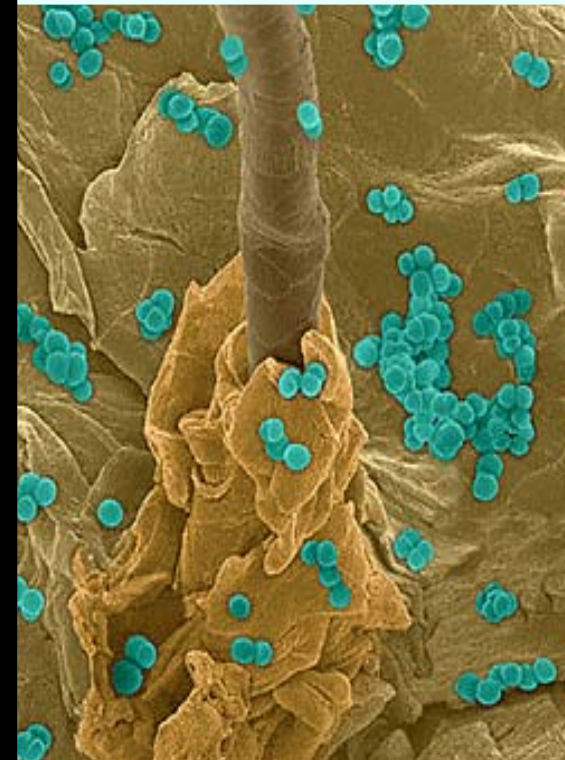
Canton, Ohio 44718

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Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus

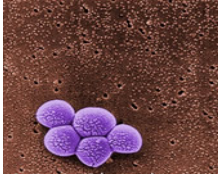
MRSA

Preventing Skin Infections in Childcare Settings



What is Staphylococcus aureus (staph)?

- Bacteria commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of approximately 25% to 30% of healthy people.
- Staph bacteria are one of the most common causes of skin infections in the United States.
- Most of these skin infections are minor (such as pimples and boils) and can be treated without antibiotics.



What is MRSA? (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus)

- MRSA is a type of staph that is resistant to antibiotics called beta-lactams.
- Beta-lactam antibiotics include methicillin and other more common antibiotics such as oxacillin, penicillin and amoxicillin.
- However, MRSA is still highly susceptible to several other classes of antimicrobials.

How is MRSA transmitted?

MRSA is usually transmitted by direct skin-to-skin contact or contact with shared items or surfaces that have come into contact



with someone else's infection (e.g., hands, toys, playtime interaction).

What does an MRSA infection look like?

- Infections often present as mild skin or soft tissue infections that generally start as small red bumps that resemble pimples, boils or spider bites.
- MRSA infected skin lesions can change from skin or surface irritations to abscesses or serious skin infections.
- If left untreated, MRSA can infect blood and bones.



How are MRSA infections treated?

- Many MRSA infections can be minor and easily treated by draining the abscess or boil and may not require antibiotics.
- **Only health care providers should drain sores.**
- Always keep draining sores covered to prevent others from getting sick.
- If your case is severe, you may need very strong antibiotics that can only be given in a hospital.

How can I prevent MRSA infections?

According to the CDC, practicing the following good hygiene habits will help prevent skin infections:

- Keep cuts clean and covered with a proper dressing or bandage until they are healed.
- Avoid contact with other people's wounds or anything contaminated by a wound.

Wash your hands frequently!

A little splash of water is NOT enough to clean your hands. Good hand washing requires soap, water, and friction.



Follow these easy steps to be sure your hands are getting clean each time you wash:

- Use warm water and soap.
- Rub hands vigorously for 15-20 seconds.
- Wash palms, backs, under nails, between fingers, and wrists.
- Rinse off all soap.
- Dry hands with a paper towel.
- Use the paper towel to turn off the water.
- Use the paper towel to open the bathroom door.
- Discard the paper towel immediately after leaving the bathroom.