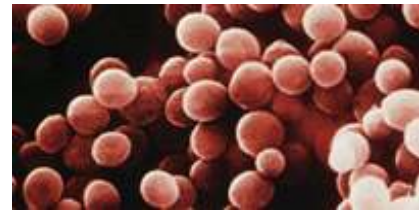


MRSA

Methicillin - Resistant Staphylococcus
Aureus



Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus under the microscope.

What is MRSA? MRSA is a type of staph infection that is resistant to common antibiotics, such as Amoxicillin, Penicillin, and Methicillin.

What is a “Staph Infection?” A staph infection is an infection caused by a bacteria (staphylococcus aureus) commonly found on the skin or in the nose of healthy people.

What are the Symptoms? Staph Infections are most commonly characterized as skin infections resulting in **pimples or boils** of the skin, although some serious infections can lead to bloodstream infection, surgical wound infection, and pneumonia.



How is MRSA transmitted? MRSA is most commonly transmitted through **direct skin contact** with an individual or object that is contaminated or carries the bacteria. Individuals are especially susceptible to infection when an open wound is present on the body.

Can MRSA infections be treated? Yes, most staph and MRSA infections can be treated by antibiotics, while other staph infections can be treated by simply draining the abscess or boil and do not require antibiotics. *This should only be done by a Healthcare Professional, never on your own.*

How serious is a Staph or MRSA infection? While most staph infections are not of a serious nature and can be easily treated, some staph/MRSA infections can become serious infections of the bloodstream, surgical site, or pneumonia.

What should you do if you suspect a staph or MRSA infection? See a Healthcare professional.

What Increases My Risk of a Staph or MRSA Infection?

Working/Being in a Healthcare Setting
Having an Open Wound
Living in Close Quarters
Sharing Personal Items
Being an Athlete
Not practicing Good Hygiene

Who is At Risk? First, anyone can contract a staph or MRSA infection. Second, while most staph and MRSA cases are associated with healthcare settings, community based infections are on the rise. Below is a list of community populations that are at an increased risk of infection:

Healthcare Personnel / Patients
Athletes
Military Recruits

How to Protect Yourself

Wash Your Hands Often—Practice Good Hygiene
Wash hands frequently with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based sanitizer, especially after handling bandages or coming in contact with an infected site.

Do Not Share Personal Items, such as towels, wash cloths, razors, clothing, uniforms, etc.

Do Not Share Athletic Equipment

Cover and Clean Wounds Until Healed

Avoid Contact with Other’s Wounds or Bandages

For Additional Information see: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca_public.html
Sources: “Community-Associated MRSA Information for the Public,” http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca_public.html