



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

METHICILLIN-RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS (MRSA) FACT SHEET

What is MRSA?

MRSA is a staph bacteria that is resistant to many antibiotics making it very dangerous. Most infections occur in the hospital or other health care settings. If left untreated, MRSA will cause Sepsis, a life threatening reaction to infection in the body.

What are the symptoms?

- Begins with a skin infection that is often mistaken for a spider bite but continues to swell. The bump may be red or mis-colored, swollen, painful, warm, oozing pus or other drainage.
- Fever
- **Symptoms appear usually 2 to 5 days after exposure.**

How can it be prevented?

- Maintain proper hand and body hygiene being sure to wash thoroughly and often.
- Keep cuts, scrapes and wounds clean and covered until healed.
- Avoid sharing items such as towels and razors.
- Seek treatment early if you think you might have an infection.

How can it be spread?

- Sharing personal items such as towels and razors that have touched infected skin.
- Contact with drainage and contaminated surfaces.
- Increase chance of spreading places where overcrowding, skin to skin contact and/or physical activity is high.
- Athletes and those who have just received medical treatment are at highest risk.

How it is treated?

- Though resistant to common antibiotics, there are some strong enough to treat MRSA infections.
- Surgical attention may be required to drain the abscess.
- See your doctor IMMEDIATELY if you think you have a skin infection of MRSA.