

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 can cause sepsis, a life threatening reaction to infection in the body.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms may include:

- A skin infection that is often mistaken for a spider bite but continues to swell
- A bump on the skin that may be red or discolored, swollen, painful, warm, and oozing pus or other fluid (a bump filled with pus is called an abscess)
- 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 is it spread?

- By sharing personal items such as towels and razors that have touched infected skin
- By having contact with drainage from the abscess (a bump filled with pus)
- By having contact with contaminated surfaces

There is an increased chance of exposure in 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 is it treated?

- Though resistant to common antibiotics, there are some antibiotics that are strong enough to treat MRSA infections
- Surgical attention may be required to drain the abscess

See your doctor IMMEDIATELY if MRSA is suspected .

More information: <https://www.cdc.gov/mrsa/community/index.html>

This FACT SHEET is for information only and is not meant to be used for self-diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a healthcare provider. For more information call your healthcare provider.

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