



MRSA

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*

What is MRSA?

MRSA is a type of staph bacteria that is resistant to several types of antibiotics. MRSA causes skin and other infections. About 30% of people carry staph bacteria in their nose or on their skin, and don't get sick. About 2% of people carry MRSA in their nose or on their skin.

How does MRSA spread?

Anyone can get MRSA through direct contact with an infected wound or by sharing personal items (towels or razors) that have touched an infected wound. There is an increased chance of spreading MRSA in settings where there is frequent crowding, close skin-to-skin contact, or sharing of equipment or supplies.

What are the symptoms of MRSA?

Most MRSA skin infections seen in the community appear as pustules or boils, which may be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage. These skin infections often occur at sites of visible skin trauma, such as cuts and scrapes. Contact your physician at the first sign of infection. Only a physician can properly diagnose and treat the infection.

How is MRSA prevented?

The best defense against MRSA is good hygiene. Practice frequent, proper hand washing or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Clean and cover any cuts/wounds. Avoid close skin-to-skin contact or use a barrier. Thoroughly clean and disinfect objects. A person who has a wound should keep it covered and wash their hands frequently.

School Exclusion Policy:

Children do not need to be excluded from school. Draining, open wounds should be cleaned and covered with a dressing until healed.

Resources:

Center for Disease Control & Prevention-

<http://www.cdc.gov/mrsa/community/index.html>

Texas Department of State Health Services-

http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/antibiotic_resistance/mrsa/