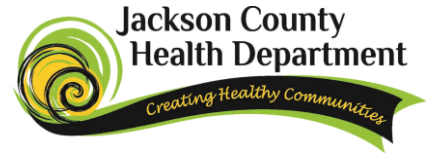




Jackson County Health Department Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)



What is Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)?

MRSA is a type of staph bacteria that live on the skin and in the nose, usually without causing harm. MRSA is resistant to antibiotics that are typically used to treat this disease.

How is MRSA spread?

MRSA bacteria can spread by touching the infected skin or wound of anyone who has MRSA, or sharing objects such as towels or athletic equipment with someone who is infected. MRSA is almost always spread through physical contact. If you have MRSA in your nose, you can spread the bacteria just by touching your nose and then someone else. People are at higher risk for MRSA infection when they:

- Have surgery
- Have medical devices inserted in their body
- Use needles to inject drugs

How is MRSA treated?

Since MRSA is often resistant to many antibiotics, it can be hard to treat. However, some antibiotics can successfully cure MRSA infections. Culture and susceptibility testing should guide therapy and antibiotic decisions for patients with infections that do not respond to initial treatment. It is important to take all of the doses of your antibiotic even if the infection is getting better. The last few pills kill the toughest germs. Other treatments for MRSA skin infections is incisions and drainage. Providers can also apply topical medicines and antiseptics to decrease the amount of MRSA on a person's body.

How can MRSA be prevented?

- The best way to prevent MRSA is to practice good hygiene which will help prevent skin infections. Keep your hands clean by washing

thoroughly with soap and water. You should also avoid sharing personal items such as towels and razors, and contact your doctor if you think you have an infection.

- If you have a skin infection, you should keep the area covered with a dry bandage and clothing, if possible. Change the bandage often, especially if the bandage gets wet. Make sure any drainage (pus or fluid) that comes out of your wound does not get onto other people or objects that others might touch. After you touch your infected site, wash your hands immediately.

Symptoms of MRSA:

Most skin infections, including MRSA, appear as a bump (pimple or boil) or infected area on the skin that might be:


- Red
- Swollen
- Painful
- Warm to the touch
- Full of pus or other drainage
- Accompanied by a fever

Often misdiagnosed as a spider bite.

*Jackson County Health Department
Communicable Disease Dept.
1715 Lansing Ave.
Jackson, MI 49202
(517) 788-4655*

www.mijackson.org

Source: www.cdc.gov

CDC Public Information 
800-232-4636 (800-CDC-INFO)
TTY 888-232-6348